

side

Wednesday January 10 1996

OCCURIO.

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John Mullin on a disturbing trend

Why farmers top the suicide league

Guardian 2 with European weather



Society

The hippies protecting our heritage

is the 11-plus on the way back?

Principles be damned

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'Lone Wolf' Chechens hold 2,000 hostages in hospital siege

Yeltsin rules out talks to free captives

'Nobody gets out alive' damages



James Meek in Kiziyar and David Hearst in Mosco

enior ministers. their authority in tatters, last night vowed to block any attempt to negotiate the release of over 2,000 hostages, including new-born babies, children and pregnant women, held by heavily armed Chechen separatists in a hospital in the small town of

Kizlyar in Dagestan.
"This time, nobody will walk out of there alive," said the interior minister, General Anatoli Kulikov, referring to previous hostage-taking attacks by the Chechens. Troops encircling the town in the autonomous Russian republic would "exterminate the bandits", he said, adding that a grave was ready and waiting for the "Lone Wolf" Chechen group's leader, Sal-man Raduyev, aged 28.

Two hostages were repor during the taking of the hos-pital. Earlier a firefight with police yesterday morning left at least seven police and civil-

Speaking on Russian television after cameras were let into the hospital, Mr Raduyev was equally uncompromising, saying he was prepared to fight to the death to rid Chechenia of Russian troops.
"We are not at all con-

cerned for our own lives ... We have made an oath to our president that we will be kamikazes to the end and carry out his orders . . . for the sake of our independence." Mr Raduyev said, referring to the Chechen senaratist leader. Dzhokhar Dudayev. "The main slogan of our action is death or freedom."

The Lone Wolf leader said



Chechen separatists on Russian television yesterday after shooting their way into the hospital. Their leader said they were ready to fight to the death

to the town, which is close to the Dagestan-Chechenia bor-"We are ready to conduct active military operations with any unit of the Russian army for a week. It will go on without end until the war in Chechenia is over." he said. "We just want this to end peacefully," one woman told

dozens of frightened captives. Kiziyar was sealed off last night. Interior ministry forces at police control posts leading to the town prevented leading to the town prevented including several hundred all movement in and out. Chechen families.

There was no sound of fight-

ing from the town itself.

Local people said the fighting had begun in the early hours of yesterday morning. Abdukhallim Ramazomov, aged 37, who runs a shop nea the police post, said he heard heavy-calibre gunfire. He said people leaving the town told him they have seen many bodies lying in the streets.

The hospital is a three-storay building with a separate maternity wing. Kizlyar is a multi-ethnic community

The nationalities minister, Vyascheslav Mikhailov, reinforced the government's bandits. They are maniacs, a collective Chikatilo [an infa-, refused to go were shot dead.

Once in the hospital Mr Ratough line: "You don't talk to attacking all the rebel bases

in the Chechen mountains. Slipping past thousands of Russian troops, the group of tages for every fighters of his more than 100 rebels achieved who died.

complete surprise. At first they tried to seize a military airfield but were beaten back, after losing six of their men. Running battles

with Russian soldiers spread through the stunned town, as Chechens herded residents of hospitals. Two men who dayev, issued demanded the withdrawal of Russian troops,

Like Shamil Basayev, who walked free from the a similar hostage-taking episode in the southern Russian town of Budyonnovsk last year, Mr

version ended up in a slightly different direction," Mr Raduyev said, "There is a military base in Kizlyar and our mission was to destroy eight helicopters. We found three and destroyed them and smashed the military base." A furious Mr Yeltsin deliv

Raduyev claimed he had not

originally intended to take hostages: "Our military di-

ered a humiliating public rebuke to his entire military ministerial team, also before the television cameras.

TV exposure child speech

Sarah Boselev

OO much television is stunting the language development of middle-class children as well as those from deprived inner city areas, according to a leading speech therapist. Dr Sally Ward, who is con-sidered the country's leading authority on the speech devel-

opment of young children, believes babies under one year old should not watch televiof two or three should watch for no more than an hour s

Dr Ward's 10-year study of babies and toddlers in innercity Manchester showed television was a very important factor in delaying the speech development of one in five children with problems. The background noise from televisions stopped them learning to talk as early as they should. At eight months, they neither recognised their names nor basic words like "juice" and "bricks". At three, they had the language of two-year-olds.

children from well-to-do families presenting with lan-guage problems at her Lonhandicapped in the same way.
"The television is being used as a babysitter, with nannies spending far too much time education and they are exwatching television and tional failures, "she said.

"They get very fixed on the colours and flashing lights. They are riveted by the screen. We found in our study it was quite difficult to get them interested in toys.'

The only speech some children were hearing was a noise from the television they could neither understand nor respond to. Parents or minders had stopped talking to them. They were not being taught a basic vocabulary through one-to-one conversa-

tions with adults. All the evidence showed. said Dr Ward, now at the



ing Centre, that children whose language was below standard at the age of three could be set back for life. "They are likely to be educaall sorts of ways. They will go to school with depressed laneducational progress is held

Dr Ward found that parents who were taught to turn off their children could quickly repair the damage. Babies of don clinic are being nine months would be back on course within four months. But the older they particularly. Some of these more difficult it is. By eight, middle-class children are they are usually in special

by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, whose spokeswoman, Liz Jepson, called Dr Ward "the leader in her field".

"While television is not in itself harmful, it is not to be used as a babysitter because it doesn't require any res-ponse from the children," Ms Jepson said.

"We advise that you must have times when there is silence and you talk to your child. Middle-class parents need to be told this just as much as inner-city parents

Lawyers sued for £1m

Birmingham 6 scientist claims errors by Carter-Ruck's

David Hencke

RANK Skuse, the former Home Office forensic scientist, is seeking £1 million damages from the eminent libel lawyers Peter Car-ter-Ruck and Partners over their handling of a libel case which arose from his role in the unsafe convictions of the Birmingham Six.

Dr Skuse brought the origi-nal action in 1989, more than three years after a Granada TV programme cast doubt on his tests to detect nitroglycerine, used to convict two of the Six. The programme said the substance could have come from handling playing cards. The convictions of the Six were found to be unsafe in 1991, and Dr Skuse's methods were later criticised in Judith Ward's successful appeal against her conviction for the M62 coach bombing.

His claim against Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners alleges negligence and breach of contract. Strongly contested by



Frank Skuse: ruined by cost of libel case

the firm, it is a counterclaim to a court application by Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners to obtain £131,625 out-

standing on his bill. Dr Skuse, through his lawyer, Denis Whalley of J. Keith Park in St. Helens, Mersey-side, lists 20 grounds for his claim, including continuing to pursue the original claim when it was not reasonable to do so during a seven-year battle with Granada TV Skuse eventually agreed to which left him facing a walk away from the case on

£288,478 legal bill. Dr Skuse is now living on a small civil service pension after giving his libel lawyers

charges over his three homes and losing a lifetime's sav-ings. To add to his misery his main home in Wigan has been burgled 14 times and fire-bombed. He faces bankruptcy. Mr Whalley said: "We are talking of a claim amounting

to at least £1 million. This includes returning the £156,852 which Dr Skuse has paid to the firm plus commercial rates of interest. We are also seeking damages for all the anxiety, losses and incon-venience caused by the action and for the loss of the pros-pect of recovering damages from Granada for his loss of reputation." Peter Carter-Ruck and Part-

ners denies that Dr Skuse is entitled to damages and says the full amount claimed in fees is properly payable. In particular, Dr Skuse had been unable to demonstrate with any certainty the method and efficacy of the tests he used in the Birmingham Six case, which meant that any libel judge would certainly have found that he should not have said at the trial that he was 99 per cent certain of his conclusions. Therefore, he could not have won his libel action. Dr

Turn to page 2, column 7

the advice of a barrister,

Tory backer takes helm at BBC as Hussey goes early

Michael Ellison

CONSERVATIVE busi-A nessman who claimed just over a year ago that he had no future in the media was made chairman of the BBC yesterday to bol-ster the Birt revolution. Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the transport company NFC and former

chairman of London Weekend Television, replaces Marmaduke Hussey, who is stepping down six months early after almost 10 years in the job. Mr Hussey was looked on increasingly as playing out time after securing the BBC's new charter and licence agreement last year.

A former colleague of Sir Christopher's said yester-day: "It's bad news for anyone at the BBC who thought they were going to get a change of regime. He's talented, intelligent and has lots of ability but he can be unnecessarily rough

with people."
Sir Christopher, who with his then chief executive Greg Dyke fought a losing hattle to keep Gra-nada's hands off LWT, said

Last night the former Conservative Greater London Council member and exchairman of the Bow Group said: "What's changed is that I've been offered this rather good job, the best in broadcasting."

Sir Christopher, who takes over on a five-year on top of the £200,000-a-year he receives as chair-man of NFC. His consolation for losing the battle for LWT 21 months ago was £9

million in Granada shares. "My Conservative connections are pretty ancient in the sense that I've not been active in politics for 24 years," he said last night, adding that he would allow his membership to lapse. "My job will be to deimpartiality of the BBC against all-comers and I'm quite clear about that."

He said the main challenges were competition and changing technology. Sir Christopheris a friend of John Birt, the BBC's director-general, whose

14 months ago: "Greg's regime of efficiency popu-future is probably in lated by outside producers, media. Mine is not." consultants and soothsayers has enraged many employees. Mr Birt was said to be delighted by the appointment. Jack Cunningham, the

shadow national heritage secretary, said: "It is abso-lutely essential that he is rigorous about his own and the corporation's political contract at the end of independence at all times."

March, will be paid £83,670 Broadcasting industry in Broadcasting industry insiders said that Sir Christopher, a former deputy chairman of the Indepen-dent Broadcasting Author-ity, was a professional with a public service background who would get on better with Mr Birt than

did his predecessor. Mr Dyke, a Labour supecutive of Pearson Televi-sion, said: "He is a Tory, but that never influenced his work. He understands broadcasting inside out, he's tough and independent. I don't see him as a political appointment, he's been appointed because he's the best candidate."

Leader comment, page 10; Melvyn Bragg, G2 page 4

ABBEY NATIONAL ED BARCLAYS LLOYDS MIDLAND 16.0% NAT WEST 18.9% he habit of a lifetime WAKE LIPTO FRESHER BANKING

etters 10 Objustice 9



Arts 4/5/7

Cartoons 15 Radio 16



Sketch

The No Brains, No Trust show



Mark Lawson

HE day after the triumphant comeback to televi-sion of The Brains Trust, in which some of the nation's most impressive minds address important issues of the day. Westminster witnessed the return of its own long-running No Brains, No Trust show, in which representatives from the other end of the mental scale address questions of current concern.

For the new series Emma Nicholson, who had spent some years hoping to become part of the panel answering the questions, had given up and joined those who pose them. Viewers expecting an explosive opening to the first show were, however, disappointed. Declining formally to cross the floor, Ms Nicholson chose simply to be in her new position when the action

Rather in the manner of refugees seeking sanctuary in churches, she had taken adntage of religious protection, assuming her new seat during prayers. She had, though, chosen to wear a flashy apricot jacket, presumably the closest her wardrobe held to Lib Dem yellow.

All of the opening posers were on the thorny topic of tial dismay of viewers, this first 1996 edition of No Brains No Trust turned out to be lacking its currently designated expert on defence matters, the bluntly patriotic Michael Por-tillo (catchphrase: "If that's good for Britain, I'm a Spanlard"), who was apparently on a shooting-mouth-off holiday in Japan. Filling in was happyeater Nicholas Soames (catchphrase: "It depends how you slice the cake").

Soames became famous as a television personality last year for questioning the sanity of the Princess of Wales. He is now reportedly under orders to avoid comment on royal matters. So there was

Neil's slick stuff

on tangled web

Review

Stuart Jeffries

The Andrew Nell Show

T WAS billed as the BBC's

first global talk show, with 49 million homes in 111

countries able to tune in on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays thanks to a link-up

with the cable and satellite

channel, BBC World. You could join the debate by send-

ing faxes or e-mail, or even

phone in. Why, you could probably send a letter if you

asked nicely for the address.

The Andrew Neil Show was so white hot with technology that it even had its own World-

wide Web site. Unfortunately,

though, the Radio Times had printed a dot instead of a slash

at a vital point in the address. so initially access to the site was denied. Once one ob-

tained the right address, more disappointment was in store:

at 2pm, 10 minutes before the show was due to start, there

was none of the promised information on forthcoming guests. The only data one could download was a picture

of Neil sitting in his waistcoat

on a desk, a lovely portrait,

but somehow possible to

Once the show proper

started Neil proved a slick host, as slick as the stuff that

was holding his notorious hair

in place. He is nothing if not a

man, as he has proved hosting

capable television anchor-

His first interviewee was Sir Ronald Hadfield, West

Midlands police chief consta-

ble, who confined himself to

amplifying views he has ex-pressed recently about the

the Midnight Hour.

some tension when Sir Michael Neubert (C, Romford) raised the question of the sexual preferences of members of the British military. Would Soames be unable to resist a crack about the Princess of Wales's soldier pal, James Hewitt, being unable to keep his uniform on?

But Sir Michael was thinking of homosexuals, "Homosexuality," boomed Soames. "is incompatible with the special circumstances of ser-

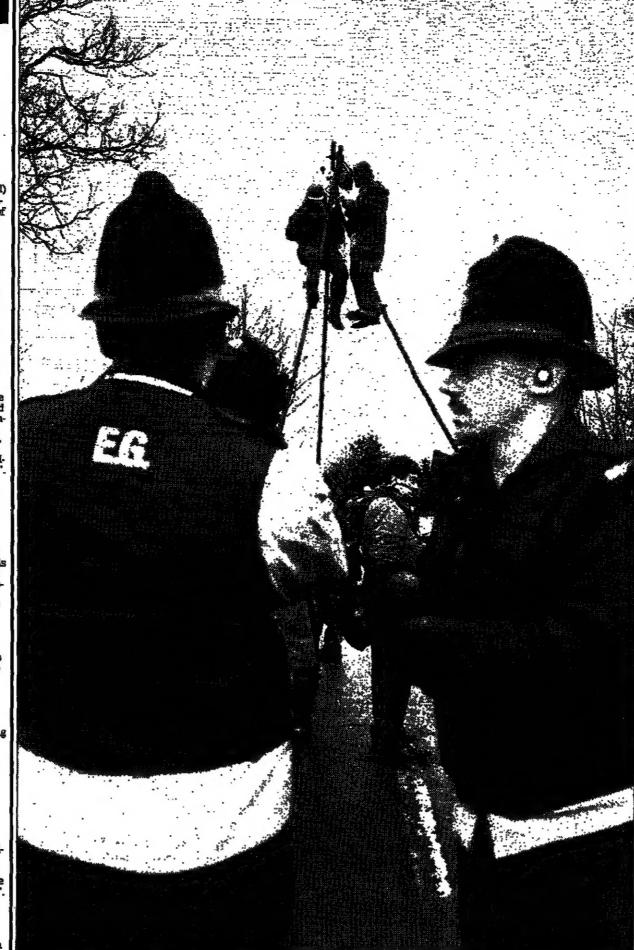
However, although Nato
has been responsible, among
other things, for a famously
explicit picture of two men
holding hands in public — the
late President Mitterrand and
Chancellor Wohl — Some in Chancellor Kohl - Soames insisted, in response to a ques-tion from Dr Robert Spink (C, Castle Point) that it was "the most successful defensive alliance the world has ever seen".

Entering to take his own questions, John Major may also have had defensive alliances on his mind, for he paused and pointedly patted Gillian Shephard's knee twice, rather as if she were a favourite dog. Major perhaps also whispered "Stay!", for his first sight as he sat down was Emma Nicholson, glowing op-posite, like a welcoming orange beacon for other vessels

With the Prime Minister sensitive about his numbers it can not have been good for his nerves that so many of his colleagues had failed to make it back for the first day: Portillo in Japan, Rifkind in China, Howard in India and Mawhinney in America.

The ever-keen Heseltine was back from Amalfi, looking expensively bronzed, al-though — following the prediction by a firm of actuaries of four Tory deaths this year — Major may have been alarmed at how many of his backbeuchers look an unhealthy red.

Paul Flynn (Lab, Newport West) asked what legitimacy the Major government had, al-ways losing by elections and now losing members. Major cited "the largest popular vote in history in the last election". Critics say that the biggest threat to No Brains, No Trust is the death of social deference: folk no longer see any reason why they should listen to such stuff from people with



One of the structures which penned 400 security guards in for so long that work was called off

Tripod tactic halts work on bypass

Alex Bellos on how protesters won the first round in the Battle of Newbury

terday when roads protest-ers halted the first day of armed with CS gas and pepper sprays. It was a solid issue but

perhaps not as topical as one controversial bypass. Building work was un-able to begin because 30 acwould have expected: talk radio and comment pages had aired this issue several days tivists immobilised 400 se previously.
Worse, after about 10 mincurity guards, brought in to protect the workers, by utes of predominantly e-mail blocking the road at the generated debate (raising the worrying possibility that conguards' assembly point 20

The protesters said they tributions will be overwhelm ingly from microserfs), Neil introduced his celebrity knew about the site. Abbots Farm at Sulhamstead Abbots, near Reading, because a friend had applied for a guest, former Formula 1 motor racing champion Jackie Stewjob with a security firm and had been taken there the art, for what was intended to be a celebrity interview. In fact, it came across as a 40minute advertorial for Stew

As soon as seven coaches arrived at the farm to take art's new. Ford-sponsored the guards out, two five-metre-high wooden tripods There may have been some cachet in luring Stewart on to were set up in the road at pass, one at Speen and one at Tot Hill. These will house machinery and raw protesters on the tripods materials for the project. the show, but he proved a dull and over-indulged guest. In

Martin Linton

OST people believe

that individual National Lottery prizes should be limited to £1

million, with a £10 million

cap on the total jackpot, even

though they buy more tickets when the jackpot is higher.

This ambivalent attitude

emerges in an ICM poll for the Guardian taken at the end

of the week when the roll-

over prize reached a record

£42 million and nine out of 10 adults were said to have

The poll casts doubt on the

argument by ministers and

lottery organisers Camelot

that the public must be happy

with the roll-over system be-

cause they buy more tickets.

According to the survey 63 per cent want a £1 million

bought tickets.

response to largely patsy questions from Neil and view ers as far apart as Melbourne and Redditch, Stewart talked endlessly about V-10 engines and his budding racing drivers, including "one young lion from the staircase of tal-ent that we created". Stewart had clearly drunk deep from the fountain of mixed meta-phor. This was television for hose who find nothing absurd in the phrase "Nigel Mansell is charismatic".

Let's hope it can improve. According to the announcer, today's guest is Bosnian foreign minister Mohammed Sa cirbey, on Thursday actress Patsy Kensit will appear and some time in March Sir Cliff Richard will be on. Now would somebody mind passing this information on to the technojohnnies so they can put it on Andrew Neil's web site?

Mourners pay last respects to schoolgirl killed in ice tragedy

ALMOST 500 people gation which was told that hope had sprung from the odist chanel in Hemsworth, bleak circumstances of the odist chapel in Hemsworth, West Yorkshire, yesterday to say farewell to the "happy, always smiling" schoolgirl who died in a new year tragedy at the local park lake. Friends and colleagues of the two men who gave their lives trying to save 11-year-old Tracey Patti- the Rev Piers Lane, who conson from the freezing water were prominent in a congre- wife, the Rev Fran Lane.

limit on individual prizes, 70 per cent want a £10 million "It is difficult to understand limit on the jackpot, 75 per how such terrible things can cent want the lottery to be happen, but there has been a non-profit-making and 87 per remarkable surge of commu cent believe it should give more money to charity. But nity feeling and goodwill following this tragedy," said scrapping it would be opposed by 86 per cent of people. The detailed figures show pot is £9 million, this would that a £1 million prize limit act as a ban on roll-overs. Francis Wheen, G2, page 11 ducted the service with his

*HE so-called Third refused to come down until seven hours later, when an began in earnest yes- officer asked them to let an ambulance through to two injured security guards. By, that time the Highways Agency had cailed off work

for the day. Four men were arrested for obstructing the high-way and two were later charged.

Should the National Lottery:

Give more money to charity?

YES 87% 11%

75% 21%

70% 28%

63% 35%

Be non-profit-making?

Jackpots limited to \$10m?

Be scrapped completely?

12% 86%

Individual prizes limited to £1m?

appeals more to women than

men (71 per cent to 55), more to the low-paid than the high-

paid (68 to 58) and more to

Labour voters than Conserva-

tives (66 to 57). But every

group favours a £1 million

limit except for the young,

aged 18-24, who would prefer

to keep the larger cash prizes

by a narrow margin of 53 to 46

is favoured by every group.

Since the normal weekly jack

A £10 million jackpot limit

themselves."

profile of all adults.

Yesterday's action was seen by most sections of the anti-roads movement as an unprecedented success. Peter Gaisford, a protester who lives in Newbury, said the psychological battle was being won. "Today was going to be their big start. We didn't think it would be

It is understood that the construction company's first aim will be to build two compounds on the

overnight." Thames Valley Police have joined the Hampshire force to oversee the building of the bypass. The extra policing would cost between £30,000 and £35,000 a week, Mr Blair said. David Rendel, Liberal

which is expected to take two-and-a-half years.

Police made a special

effort yesterday to appear even-handed, even offering

protesters coffee before try

ing to remove them. lan

Blair, assistant chief con-

stable of Thames Valley police, said: "This is the

start of a very long opera-tion. Our approach is that we are holders of the ring."

He admitted to being a lit-

tie taken aback by the tri-pods. "I would not say we

were specifically ready for them. But we were ready enough to get here early on.

Democrat MP for Newbury
— which was the site of two battles in the English Civil War - spent the morning at the demonstration arguing the case for the bypass. He said: "The residents of

ard Benyon, the Conserva-tive candidate for Newbury in the next general election, is the owner of Abbots Farm. He said he had made his land available to the security firm, Reliance, for

Portrait, G2 page 10

Newbury by a huge major-

ity support the bypass. It's

between six to one to eight to one in favour. His political rival Rich-

VIII.The UN and Somalia ISBN 9211005663

Clinton wants to hit critic on the nose

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

ILL Clinton wants to punch the nose of a leading columnist who called his wife Hillary "a congenital liar", aides revealed yesterday. Replying to New York Times pundit William Safire's

latest column - which blasted the First Lady for althe Whitewater affair - the White House press secretary. Mike McCurry, said: "The president, if he were not the president, would have deliv-ered a more forceful response to that on the bridge of Mr

Safire's nose."

News of Mr Clinton's pugilistic temptation came amid a series of political blows to the president, including a judicial ruling which could force him to answer sexual harassment charges in court and an opin-ion poll which showed Mr Clinton lagging behind the Republican presidential favourite, Bob Dole, for the

first time. The CNN/USA Today poll found Mr Dole would best Mr Clinton in November's election by a 49 to 46 per cent margin. In November Mr Clinton led by 16 points. The resuscitation of the

Whitewater affair is partly to blame for the decline in the president's standing. Newly released documents suggest the First Lady has failed to tell the truth in several key areas, and may even have lied under oath. According to Mr Safire, "she is compelled to mislead and to ensuare her subordinates and friends in a web of deceit."

The columnist's attack — reprinted in the Guardian yesterday — shocked Washington by aiming its vitriol at

once considered off-limits. Mr Safire is the high priest of conservative commentary and his column is compulsory

reading in the capital.

Mr McCurry said the writer was not under immediate threat of Mr Clinton's fist.
"The president, being president, knows that he can't possibly do such a thing." The last similar threat came from Harry Truman, who promised to hit a reporter for criticis-ing his daughter's singing.

Nevertheless, Mr McCurry's remarks suggest shrewd thinking by the White House By leaping to defend the hon-our of his wife, Mr Clinton wins over traditional voters and those who regard attacks Republicans have long been dent through his wife is a high-risk strategy. But they believe cracks in

Mrs Clinton's story are wide open and should be exploited. Under oath she has sworn that, as a lawyer in Arkansas, she did only limited work for the Madison Guaranty Sav-ings and Loan — the financial institution at the centre of the

Whitewater affair. Yet billing records — mysteriously discovered in the private White House residence last week — show she worked an hour a week for 15 months on the account.

Earlier a memo from a senior alde surfaced stating clearly that Mrs Clinton ordered the shambolic 1993 purge of the White House iravel staff—a direct rebuttal of the First Lady's claims that she had no role in the affair. Meanwhile, a federal ap-

peals court ruled that a sexual harassment complaint against Mr Clinton by former Arkansas state employee Paula Jones could go to trial:

Birmingham 6 scientist sues libel lawyers for £1 million

Continued from page 1 Geoffrey Shaw, that he had

never seen "such a stone cold loser of a libel action." Letters reveal the involvenent of the financier Sir James Goldsmith in bankrolling the action from January 1987 to October 3, 1989 on condition that Peter Carter-Ruck

handled it.
Sir James told the Guardian: "I dropped the case because it was far more of a po-His legal trust is said to be intended to help people in

civil rather than political Originally, Sir James was advised that Dr Skuse had a 65 per cent chance of success. but this was being reviewed in the light of further infor-metion provided by Dr Skuse as the action progressed.

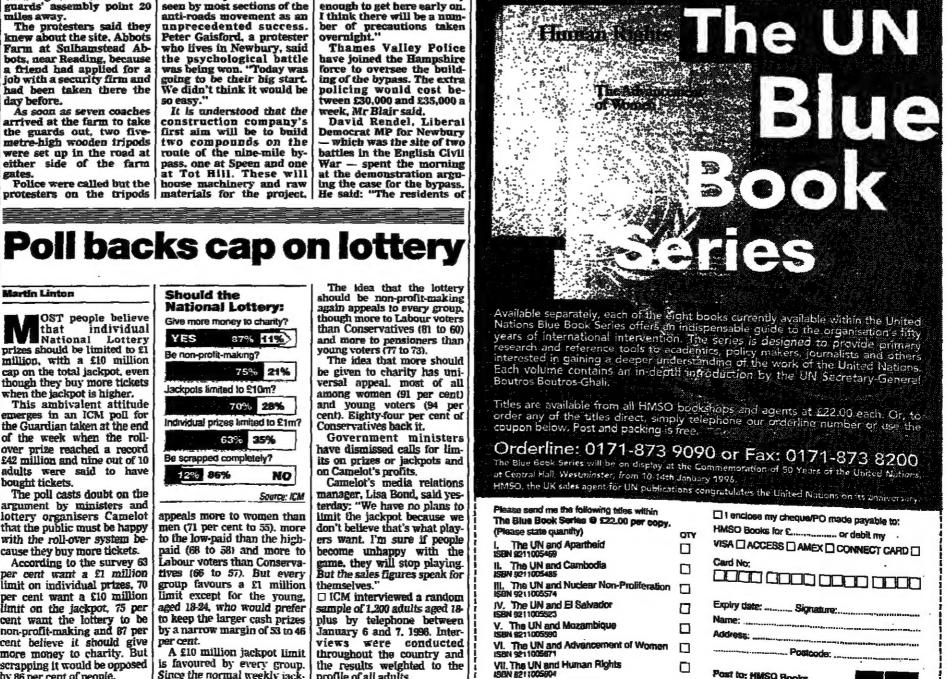
Later, Desmond Browne and George Carman advised that he was likely to lose.

Carter-Ruck and Partners Carter-Ruck and Partners spent a considerable amount of time researching and obtaining information. Dr Skuse says that the firm caused a substential delay in the case. This is denied by the firm, which says that if there was any delay it was caused or any delay it was caused or condoned by Dr Skuse. The costs of the case rose

from an initial estimate of 250,000 to £100,000, according to Dr Skuse, to an eventual Carter-Ruck reduced by £100,000. Peter Carter-Ruck claims that Dr Skuse was kept fully informed about the mer-its of his case and its cost, able for the firm's work over five years.

Today, more than 21 years after the outrage which killed 21 people and injured 162, Dr Skuse is still adamant that his test for traces of commerne was likely to lose.

During this period Peter | cial explosives has never been accurately replicated.



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LONDON SWA STIT



Rifkind in China: Talks make progress but new questions emerge over 46,000 children not accounted for by officials

Andrew Higgins in Beijing reports on the Foreign Secretary's visit and John Gittings in London (right) looks at claims of 'dying rooms'



Mystery of the 'missing' orphans

colm Rifkind, that a documentary about Chinese orphanage "dying rooms" shown on Brit-ish television last night has caused a "serious disturbance" in relations and amounted to a "biased and viclous" attack on China.

conciliatory note on the first day of Mr Rifkind's visit, Chinese officials added that the affair should not be allowed to upset efforts to achieve a diplomatic and military rapprochement between the two

The decision to screen the Channel 4 documentary "in nese side" was, said foreign ministry spokesman Chen Jian, "undoubtedy a serious disturbance in Sino-British relations which are being im-

proved and developed": China and Britain, how-ever, denied the row had caused any serious damage and pointed to progress yes-terday on the issue of right of abode in Hong Kong after 1897, a new container port for the colony, and on other issues that have long exer-cised diplomats. The two

sides also agreed to boost military and political exchanges.

Before flying to Beijing after a visit to Hong Kong, Mr Riikind gave the clearest admission was af Desiries. mission yet of Britain's increasing impotence in Hong Kong less than 18 months before the bandover. He said London had no real means to safeguard the territory's future beyond a hope that China's leaders "do not want to shoot themselves in the foot".

China's anger at Channel 4, and at expressions of concern about human rights by Mr Rifkind, appeared by yester-day to involve more ritual than passion. China's London embassy had earlier written to Channel 4 demanding the documentary be cancelled. "The Chinese government

defended their position in very robust terms," said Mr Rifkind last night, "but at no time was it suggested the subwould have any implications

asked about conditions in orsurances by China's foreign minister and vice-premier, Qian Qichen, that "no abuses were taking place." Queries

much the same answer. Mr Qian rejected British complaints that a 14-year jail sentence handed down last month against Wei Jingshen was "very, very harsh considering the very minor oftotal opposition from the Chi- fences". He repeated Beijing's assertion that Mr Wei, who has spent most of the past 16 years in jail, had plotted to overthrow the government.
Nor did China budge in its

determination to scrap Hong Kong's Legislative Council after 1997, a body elected under reforms introduced by Gover-nor Chris Patten and consid-ered illegitimate by Beijing. "Our stand has not changed and cannot change," said the foreign ministry spokesman. But Mr Rifkind did secure what he said was a promise by China to allow all those currently registered as per-manent Hong Kong residents to stay in the territory as long as they wanted after 1997.

Non-Chinese residents worry they might lose their right of residence. Britain must decide whether to grant visa-free entry for holders of Hong Kong Special Administration Region Passports after 1997.

China indicated yesterday that plans to sell Iran two nu-clear reactors have been shelved, but the two countries were exploring future co-op-eration on nuclear energy. Washington had urged China to scrap the deal fearing Tehran would use the reac-

tors to develop nuclear arms.



Han Weichang: denies policy of allowing orphans to die

children's welfare, prohibits abuse.

□ No "killing rooms". Death statistics exagger-

☐ Zhang Shuyun seeking publicity to get US visa.

☐ 100 city orphanages and 40,000 "welfare institutions" in countryside.

□ Conditions "may not be good", but China is a developing country.

Case against

□ Conditions in China's or phanages worse than any-where else; little chance of surviving to adulthood.

🛘 In Shanghai Children's Welfare Institute, mortality few years ago was probably 90 per cent".

□ Officials turn blind eye to "fatal neglect". Reduces population, saves costs.

□ Foreign adoption of orphans often means officials grow rich and neglect other children.

children in institutions have been routinely left to die. In a bassy in London, China vesterday insisted that "the sodo not exist anywhere in China." It also claims that all vided for with more than 40.000 institutions in the

oan orphanages, to look after rphans nationwide. But the report titled Death by Default, published by the US organisation Human not only suggests that large numbers of orphans die in in- he had been cleared.

stitutions, it also highlights the much larger number who are unaccounted for at all. Last year the People's Daily newspaper gave the orphan

population as roughly 100,000 of 1,2 billion. Using official statistics, HRWA has located just over 17,000 of this figure in urban orphanages and fewer than 37,000 in the rural institutions cited by the Chinese embassy. This leaves a shortfall of 46,000.

Individual foster care has been discouraged since legal changes allowing adoption only in "genuine" cases — that is, where the child has

lost both parents by death. But most orphans are aban-doned by their parents, either because they are female and/ or disabled, or because they are "unplanned" and the parents will be heavily fined for exceeding the quota of one child per family. Attention has focused so far

on the detailed account in the HWRA report of one institu-tion — the Shanghai Chil-dren's Welfare Institute where the worst abuse is said

to have occurred.
In an official tour on Tues day, foreign journalists inter-viewed the home's former

head, Han Weicheng, who has been accused of orchestrating a policy of allowing orphans to die by neglect, and of abusing some children and raping

tearfully, blaming his ex-colleague Zhang Shuyan, who smuggled out documentation on which the report is based. gramme Return to the Dying Rooms, broadcast last night, which enraged Beijing when

Mr Han admitted that the orphanage had been investigated three times but insisted Ms Zhang was motivated by thwarted ambition and that

deaths occurred. But the evidence of malpractice and a subsequent cover-up by local cracy, where incompetent or

more contentious. It is that dinarily high death rates" are seen officially as "desirable". pattern of "death by default" is based on research by expe-

remains harder to prove. Some Western experts on Chinese family and child policy confirm that death rates | ures were published.

these problems are typical where schools and hospitals Negative attitudes towards disablement may also play a

country," says one specialist, "where dying rooms exist." The HRWA report has detailed information for 67 "child welfare" orphanages contain only about 40 per cent of children institutionalised jority are in other homes for which no data is available. number of deaths nationwide is based on 1989 statistics —

the only year when such fig-

cent throughout the child welfare sector.

No amount of arguing over the figures can excuse the witnessed in Shanghai — and elsewhere. The HRWA report phanage in Harbin in north-east China visited last year by "a dim room as big as a dance

"Kicking and thrashing, they doze in their own urine, some naked, some dressed in a dirty little jacket... goloid women, shut off from

children lie unattended.

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Row over black Tory hits party

CANDIDATE who could have become Brit-ain's first black Conservative MP is almost certain to be dumped next week following a row which has split the local party and prompted charges of racism. Management consultant Hugh Neil was selected to fight Hyndburn in Lanca-shire, Britain's 21st most marginal constituency, last April and was halled by party workers as an outstanding candidate head and shoulders

But the chairwoman. Win Frankland, has since charged him with inconsistencies in his CV and with not holding a current membership card at the time of his selection. Last month party workers passed a vote of no confidence. Last night a local Tory ac-tivist who did not wish to be

above his rivals.

named said the row could prove fatal to hopes of winning back the Hyndburn seat. "Mr Neil described himself as a street fighter and he was. He went into no-go Labour areas and was winning support. But his confrontational

These people can't live with the idea of a person of colour representing them. That is what

plausible chap. but I began to have doubts last May and certain things started not this is all about to ring true' Win Frankland

style didn't appeal to some sections of the local party." But Ms Frankland said yes terday: "I hope Mr Neil will be deselected. I would have thought he would have resigned after the no-confi-

dence vote." Mr Neil alleged he was the victim of a "vicious and bigored campaign" and had been described as a wog, coon and nigger. "These people cannot live with the idea of a person of colour representing them in Parliament and that is what this is all about." He charged Conservative Central Office with not welcoming black candidates.

Party officials deny they are motivated by racism. Ms Frankland said inquiries showed Mr Neil was not, as indicated on his CV, a current member of the Bow Group. Foreign Affairs Forum, Centre for Policy Studies and Institute of Directors. Under education, he had written "Doctor of Business Administration, Manchester Business School". Checks showed he had not completed the course and was not registered in 1995/96. Ms Frankland said he rushed to acquire a party membership card in Cheadle, Cheshire, in time for the second Hyndburn

but I began to have doubts last May and certain things started not to ring true." Mr Neil countered that he had not been asked to substantiate his CV claims. He was still completing his DBA, and his membership of organisations had probably lapsed because renewal let-ters went to his London home. He had acquired a party card from Cheadle — but also had cards from Ribble Valley, Hyndburn "and probably Westminster".

"From day one these people have tried to dig into my CV and private life and find a scandal. They cannot accept change.'

In 1990, Mr Neil, son of a Brent Labour councillor who defected to the Tories, was selected as Tory candidate for the safe Labour seat of Wallsend but relations soured within eight months. He says he resigned; local workers say he was deselected. Linda Arkley, former chairman at Wallsend, said: "We could not get him to work in the constit. uency. We thought he would turn out to be a very good candidate and he turned out

A fish called zander swims its way on to dinner table

Gary Younge on a succulent dish



Heading for the dinner table . . . Steve Griffiths, a British Waterways fisheries manager, gets a close-up view of the zander

INDING its way up England's canals toward the Trent is

ney on the dinner table. It is a fish called a zander - already a delicacy on the Continent, where they eat 10,000 tons of it a year, and British Waterways is hop-ing it could replace cod in

fish and chip shops. Averaging 6lb, the zander looks like a cross between a pike and perch. But, ac-cording to Sylvan Ho Wing Choeng, a fish chef, its white flesh has a taste that

come *de rigueur* in many of Britain's French restaurants. And even though the world-famous Harry Rams-den's fish and chip shop chain had not heard of the zander until Monday, it has asked British Waterways to

send a sample. Simon Newnes, a whole sale fish merchant at Bil-lingsgate market in Lon-don, said it was British scepticism about freshwater fish, as well as the price — £2-£4 a pound, that

being firm, fleshy and deli-cate ... and it's easy to cook," he said.

The fish has already be-come de rigueur in many of Rritain's French restau-

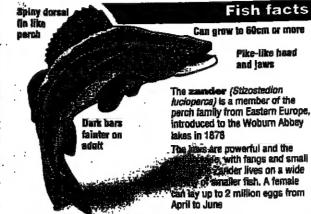
in from eastern Europe by the Duke of Bedford in 1878, and released into the lakes of Woburn, Bedford-shire. It was introduced to Fenland waters in the 1960s, and since then has spread to the north. But the gander's migra-

tion has not been welcomed by anglers, who blame its predatory instincts for depleted fish stocks.
What is good for the palate may also be good for the

environment, says Steve Griffiths, a fisheries man-ager for British Waterways. "With bigger animals like the otter now scarce, the zander's natural preda-tor is man. So the more they are caught and eaten, the greater the redressing effect on the underwater environment will be."

And this is why British

Waterways is publicising moment we are having to cull them, but it seems a much better idea to encourage people to eat them they could even catch the fish themselves," said a



Chains stay for prison mothers

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

HE Home Office Min-ister, Ann Widde-combe, last night rejected an offer by the medical authorities which would end the practice of keeping pregnant women prisoners in chains to prevent

their escape.
Miss Widdecombe defended the use manacles on pregnant prisoners during hospital vis-its but insisted they were removed "once labour was confirmed" and said medical staff had to fill in an official form recording the moment. She rejected the offer that midwives should vicit the inmidwives should visit the inmates in prison, saying it was better that patients were seen

The Royal College of Mid-wives is now to meet the director general of the Prison Service, Richard Tilt, in a further effort to resolve the situation.
The minister's defence in

the Commons yesterday only served to provoke even flercer protests from Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs who complained about the continuing use of a "barbaric 19th century practice" which violated the dignity of the prisoners involved.

Several women Labour MPs graphically told Miss Widde-

combe that she had failed to understand what happened during childbirth.

Diane Abbott told her: "You re not going to run anywhere if you are about to go During the exchanges it be-

came clear that Whittington hospital in north London had hospital in north Lornon had offered to end the need for women to be chained when they visited the frospital from nearby Holloway prison, the main women's jail in Britain.

The shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, said the chairman of the Whittington hospital trust Paronees Hav-

hospital trust, Baroness Hayman, had expressed concerns about the practice of manacling pregnant prisoners.
The hospital has offered to

send midwives into Holloway

up to the point at which the

up to the point at which the women went into labour when they would be transferred to the nearby hospital.

Mr Straw demanded: "Why has the Prison Service been so dilatory in responding to the offer made by the Whittington that they will take their community midwifery service into Holloway itself, thus ending the need for pregnant prisoners to travel to nant prisoners to travel to hospital except when their labour has been established?" But Miss Widdecombe rejected the offer: "I do not think it would be anything but harsh to have women de liver in prison, a situation which could well be the result of midwives going into prison rather than prisoners going into hospital."

Twenty women prisoners had escaped during hospital visits since 1990, including a pregnant inmate who had jumped from a first floor win-

low. Mr Straw said it was "inhuman, degrading and unneces-sary' for a pregnant prisoner to be shackled at any stage of labour.

Mas'ari shadow over **BBC Arabic service**

HIE future of the BBC's Arabic language televi-sion service has been thrown into doubt by confirmation that its coverage of the threatened deportation of Saudi dissident Mohammed al-Mas'ari has been repeat-edly censored by the service's udi-owned satellite relay station in Rome.

The blackout of BBC news coverage to the Middle East, which began on Friday and was discussed, is regarded by BBC sources as a breach of contract by its partner, Orbit Communications, owned by Prince Khalid bin Abdallah, a cousin of King Fahd, and Middle East subscribers are seeking compensation.

Emergency meetings have been arranged between the two sides to discuss the future of the multi-million pound of the difficulties involved in collaboration. Orbit said it either kidnapping or murder-

were at stake. A spokesman said the corporation was investigating the interruptions and stood by its insistence, when the service was launched 18 months ago, that "any interference with what the viewer sees of our pro-grammes would be completely unacceptable". The BBC's involvement in

the Mas'ari affair deepened as it emerged that the Saudi dissident's appeal against depor-tation to the Caribbean island for judicial review are likely to take several months, during which he will be allowed

to stay in Britain. There was a call in Parliament last night for the sacking of the chief executives of the arms firms Vickers and British Aerospace, Sir Colin Chandler and Dick Evans, over their "casual discussion of the difficulties involved in

A Commons motion in the name of George Galloway, the Scottish Labour MP and champion of the Saudi opposition, called the two men "accessories before the fact of a conspiracy to kidnap or mur-der a defenceless refugee".

opposition Labour Party in Dominica, predicted after meeting Mr Mas'ari in Lon-don yesterday that the agree-Saudi dissident asylum would be reversed in the island parsure on the streets.

Mr Douglas said: "Domi-nica cannot become the dumping ground for dissi-dents". The police could not protect the refugee, and Mr James faced resistance in his cabinet to what had been a personal deal with Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind.

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he

David Hencke reports on a continuing legal fight over forensic evidence that sent the Birmingham Six to prison

Bomb tests backfired on scientist

Lawyers accused after libel battle

LEVEN years ago case. Today he is a ruined frank Skuse, Home man, but still maintains that office forensic scientist, was at the peak of his career. He and his wife had three homes and a small nest egg of investments worth around

He had a national reputation for fighting terrorists, keeping drink drivers off the road, and was planning to set up a scientific consultancy abroad to tackle international terrorism. He had even been recommended for an honour.

Dr Skuse was hoping for in Win promotion after a 20-year 228,000. career in the forensic service. He had been involved in the lyser and the investigation of two Welsh arson campaigns.
While working at the Chor-

ley Forensic Science Laboracame famous for devising the tests to trace explosives which were used after the informed of the fees throughout the action and from the in 1974 and the bombing of outset the risk inherent in the army coach on the M62 libel actions. the same year, of which Judith Ward was cleared in

But his techniques were discredited — first through Granada Television's World in Action programme, and when another forensic scientist produced a "replica" of his test in Ms Ward's successful appeal in 1992.

He had lost his job seven years previously, though the techniques used in the Birmingham bombing case were upheld by Lord Lane, then Lord Chief Justice, in the first unsuccessful appeal in 1987. He decided to sue Granada. TV for libel and became involved in a nine-year battle which ended with each side "walking away" from the trial in October 1994. This

Dr Skuse is suing his law-

meant he had to pay his own

his methods — developed from a German scientist's test for nitroglycerine, the Griess test — were accurate.

The costs of the libel action came to almost £300,000. His Carter-Ruck, have charges on his three homes, and are pressing to sell them to raise the rest of their fees. They include his villa in Sardinia, and a detached home in Blackpool. He now mainly lives in a two bedroom semi in Wigan worth around Even his timeshare in Te-

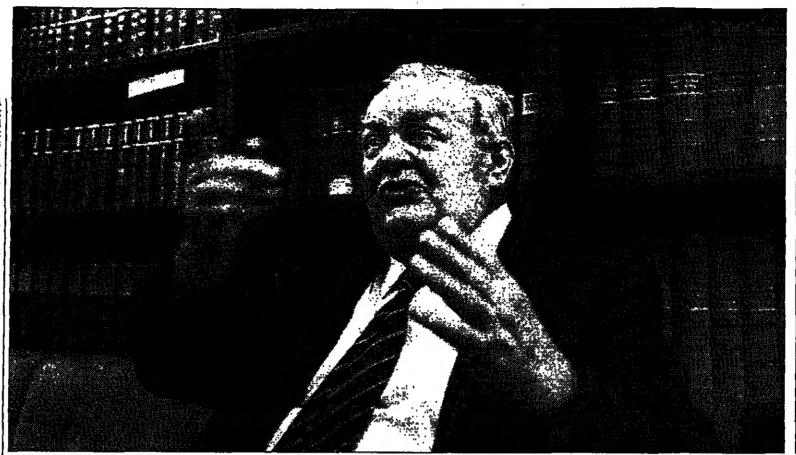
nerife and caravan are at risk as he faces bankruptcy over the legal bill. His home in Wigan has suffered 14 bur-glaries and has been firebombed. He is convinced that

he is an IRA target. Peter Carter-Ruck and part-

Dr Skuse launched his libel claim through a firm of local solicitors. World in Action had tried to contact him but he was advised by Maragaret he was advised by Maragaret Pereira, a senior Home Office official, not to be involved in "trial by media".

Dr Skuse obtained a legal opinion in 1986 from David Eady QC which said that the programme was defamatory, but warned that further investigations were necessar before proceedings started He warned he might face prosecution under the Official Secrets Act if he explained the test for explosives in open court.

After two years he received a suggestion from Detective Superintendent George Reade, who led the Birming-ham investigation, that he approach Sir James Goldsmith. He had seen a press report yers, Peter Carter-Ruck and saying that Sir James "is will-partners for alleged negling to fund anyone to pursue gence and breach of contract libel cases against the BBC, in their handling of the libel Granada TV, the Observer asked by Peter Carter-Ruck



The discredited Frank Skuse, who was advised by Detective Superintendent George Reade (top right) to seek help from Sir James Goldsmith (right)

hearing in October 1994. The first advice from the

law firm was not to pursue the libel until after the Court of Appeal had considered the Birmingham Six case. After the appeal was rejected, Dr Skuse received

confirmation that Sir James was funding his case. A writ was served on March 29, 1989. alleging that the programme said he had 'misrepresented to the court [at the 1975 Birmingham bombers trial] negligently the effect of the scien-tific tests which he had carried out." Mr Eady con-

cluded Dr Skuse had a good prospect of success.

and partners to put up £5,000 | Skuse wanted a key document alongside a £10,000 contribution from Sir James as seculimethod which he thought crurity for Granada's costs of the action if they won.

His withdrawal came against a background of a legal challenge from Good-man Derrick and Co, Granada TV's solicitors, to the funding of the case by Sir James Goldsmith.

At this point Peter Carter Ruck and partners told him that the costs could escalate to £280,000. Dr Skuse says he believed this sum would cover his and Granada's costs if he lost. There then followed a

costs and gloomy barristers' opinions, ending in a dis-agreement between Dr Skuse and his legal advisers as to the value of some of the evi-

which explained his test method which he thought crucial to the argument of his competence explained to the court.

Geoffrey Shaw thought that

this would do more harm than good and left it out of his opening remarks but agreed to mention it later if his client insisted. By the end of 1993, having paid more than £50,000 to Peter Carter-Ruck, Dr Skuse

was becoming concerned at the costs. In letters on January 18 and

27, 1994, Peter Carter-Ruck There then followed a and partners said that the series of delays, increasing future costs of the action would probably be between £178.000 and £202,000 and, "barring unforeseen and extraordinary eventualities". his assets were likely to be

In May, action was taken to | sider these to be worth. If you secure charges on his homes. In June George Carman are not successful, these too will have to be sold." was called in. Dr Skuse and But on August 17 when Dr his wife agreed to sell shares worth £36,000 to pay for his Skuse and his wife met his solicitors, the lawyers sug-

of success. Dr Skuse said he still wanted to proceed. On July 29, Nigel Tait, of says he was unhappy at the decision. Peter Carter-Ruck, wrote to They were told that Peter confirm Dr Skuse's decision to proceed: "a decision I en-Carter-Ruck was a good friend of Lord Goodman, the tirely support". He warned him however of the consefounder of the firm of solicitors instructed by Granada Television, and this friendquences of doing so, saying

that the sale of his properties ship might afford a useful and his shares would cover the first four weeks of a trial. channel by which negotia-tions might be opened. They were told he had little He adds: "I am aware that chance of success. This was confirmed later by Geoffrey Shaw who had been asked to you have other assets, for example, your caravan, your car and your time shares. advise. On September 14 Peter Carter-Ruck and part-Could you please provide me

fee (later reduced to £20,000).

At that stage Mr Carman gave him a 20 to 30 per cent chance

ners strongly advised Dr

Skuse to accept a "walk away" settlement with a warning that he would lose his Sardinian property if he pulled out and his other two gested that they walked away homes if he continued. He from the case -- leaving Dr Skuse with no damages but was also given an estimate of costs of £167,400 on September avoiding Granada's costs. He

On 27 September, a week before the trial, he was advised by Geoffrey Shaw that "he had not a cat's chance in hell" of winning.

His lawyers were despairing of him. On October 14 — when the trial subsided into a settlement — he received a letter saying [Geoffrey Shaw] — is of the view that, were all the contains in the settlement of the the time in the world available to him, he could not prepare your case in such a way as to give you anything more

voucher grace

Denald MacLand Education Correspondent

RIVATE nurseries and Childminders' groups will be able to cash in parents' vouchers for up to a year before being inspected, Robin Squire, the Education Minister, conceded yesterday. The first £1,100 vouchers are due to go out to parents of four-year-olds in four pilot

areas in the next fortnight,

with a national scheme cover-

ing every four-year-old following in September, 1997. Twelve thousand voluntary playgroups and private nurseries in England are expected to register and the Office for Standards in Education faces a huge task recruiting 4,000 early-years specialists to carry out the inspections which ministers have prom-ised in the first full year of operation. Ofsted is strug-gling to inspect all primary schools over a four-year cycle Graham Lane, education chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which sees the vouchers scheme as a threat to its own nursery services, said minis-ters were being "pigheaded". "Fears will remain that new

three and four-year-olds for at least a year without any form of external inspection." Mr Squire said nurseries would initially be able to receive voucher money on the ment of their staffing and pro-vision. "This is not just child

these goals as they prepare to start school. Some children will progress on to Key Stage

1 of the national curriculum

but others may not achieve

Personal/social develop-

ment: Children are confident.

able to establish relationships

with other children and

adults; work in groups and in-

dependently; treat living

things, property and their en-

Language and literacy: Lis-

ten and talk about experi-

ences; use growing vocabu-lary and make up stories;

carefully; know that in

English print is read from left

vironment with care.

all the desirable outcomes:

operators can be responsible

tional provision. But there is a trade-off between the necessity of having large numbers of providers and the impor-tance and timing of inspection," he said. The number of nursery places would in-crease although there was no guarantee that every child would find a place on day one. Individual childminders

would not normally qualify but they could join with others to form a playgroup and register, according to the Next Steps document issued by the department yesterday.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said Mr Squire had admitted that parents would have to take pot luck on quality. "It remains to be seen how Ofsted will accommodate the additional workload when they are al-ready struggling to meet their target for school inspections."

All nurseries and preschools will be expected to prepare children for school in six areas outlined by the School Curriculum and As-sessment Authority as "desirable outcomes". The guide-lines have been altered to include more emphasis on play after fears from early-years teachers that they would be used by untrained helpers to drill children. for the care and education of

Nick Tate, the authority's chief executive, said: "The outcomes are things children should be aiming at. Progres towards them will vary and riety of different ways."

shape and sound; write their

names in upper and lower

case letters.
Mathematics: Use mathe

matical language such as cir-

cle, bigger than and in front

and subtracting.

Desirable Outcomes for

School Curriculum and

Assessment Authority. For

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Playing to win, page 11

Goals for children aged four

OUR-YEAR-OLDS will be recognise the alphabet by expected to work towards shape and sound; write their

Nurseries to get Multi-millionaire succeeds Hussey at BBC | Water

Former LWT chairman will run corporation for next five years

Maggie Brown

VER since the BBC won its new charter and licence agreement from the Government last year. there has been a sense that Marmaduke Hussey's day as chairman of the BBC was over, his authority finished.

He no longer had any real hold over his steely former favourite, John Birt, the BBC director general. Even Mr Hussey's close links with Buckingham Palace, through his wife, Lady Susan Hussey. a lady in waiting, had become en embarrassment, as Princess Diana enlisted Panorama

to bare her soul. Mr Hussey was due to step down, after an unprecedented two terms of office totalling 10 years, by next autumn. Yes-terday the Government announced his successor, the sauve, and astute Sir Christopher Bland, ensuring that, whenever the General Election comes, it is its appointee

who goes forward for at least the next five years. The Labour Party is quietly

annoyed about the secretive selection of a multi-million-aire businessman who made a fortune through "golden handcuit" share options when LWT was taken over by Granada two years ago. But no rules have been broken: rightly or wrongly, new chairmen emerge from the ether. The BBC's new draft charter gives the chairman more power but makes no provision to change the method of appointment for this most coveted and power-

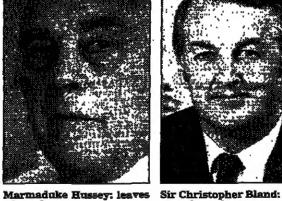
ful of positions.
There are also sound strategic reasons for picking a highly experienced commercial manager. Sir Christopher knows both broadcasting and regulation (he was deputy chairman of the then Independent Broadcasting Authority



a huge legacy been raising spirits at the | then chairman of LWT, to be-BBC by apparently consider-ing a new career. Perhaps he will now stay on. The director general has holidayed at Sir Christopher's Dordogne chateau and weekended at his Hampshire country house. Mr Birt was LWT director

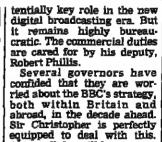
instrument maker from

which he said was smothered



come managing director.

Now the two former col-leagues are lined up together again, and in highly favour-able circumstances. The new charter firmly sets the BBC two objectives: it is to be both public service broadcaster



equipped to deal with this. Above all, he will have to en-sure that not a penny of the publicly-raised licence fee goes into subsidising activi-ties such as subscription channels: the last thing BBC governors want is to find the corporation pursued through the courts by its commercial

Mr Hussey has been one of the most reviled chairmen in the history of the BBC, not least because of his brutal sacking of director general Alasdair Milne in January 1987: it had never happened quite like that before. Mr Hussey leaves a huge legacy. Frank Gillard, a former BBC between 1972-1979).

Sir Christopher is also a close acquaintance of Mr Birt, who has in recent months before becoming BBC deputy director general in 1987, and had been early the broadcaster rains directly executive who is collecting birt has successfully redementation of programmes before becoming BBrt has successfully redementation of programmes before become and commercial operators. The programmes before become and commercial operators with the programmes before become and commercial operators. The programmes before become and commercial operators with the programmes before become and commercial operators. The programmes before become and commercial operators with the programmes before become and commercial operators. The programmes before become and commercial operators with the programmes before become and commercial operators. The programmes before become and commercial operators with the programmes before become and commercial operators. The programmes before become a

threat

Martin Wainwright

HE threat of rota cuts to water supplies in York-shire was lifted yesterday as applications for emergency drought orders were withdrawn by Yorkshire Water and the last road tankering operation was called off. Two weeks of rain have taken all the county's reservoirs over the "safe" mark of 20 per cent for the first time since August, when some

dams ran dry.

The company, which has spent up to £3 million a week since November on tankering and other emergency mea sures will end the final 110-lorry shuttle to the Hudders-

field area by Friday. John Layfield, Yorkshire Water's production director, said: "We cannot yet say the drought is over and we will not hesitate to re-start tanker-ing if levels fall back badly. We are also retaining emergency abstraction orders for the rivers Ouse and Wharfe, as well as a ban on some car washes and hosepipe However, the company guaranteed that the idea of

rota cuts would not be Mr Layfield said the firm's new £100 million water trans-

next week, reservoir levels in the drought area are at a reassuring 29.6 per cent in Brad-ford, 26.8 per cent in Leeds, 24.9 per cent in Calderdale and 20.4 per cent in Kirklees. • Northumbria Water last staff redundant through night announced a £1 million compensation package for householders cut off by the collapse of mains pipes in the thaw after heavy Christmas

Mr Milburn said: "Only this Government could make frost. It will pay £40 to every multi-million-pound pay-offs affected household — double a priority at a time when the | the maximum £20 required by NHS is crying out for more A total of £920,000 will be doctors and nurses."

The department said more NHS staff than ever before 60 per cent 12 years ago.

health authorities in April ex-

pected to save £150 million.

ratio of qualified to unquali-

questions by Alan Milburn, a shadow health minister. They show that the total bill for pay-offs in England jumped to £32.8 million in 1991/92. It rose to £50.8 million in 1992/ 93, and to £93.7 million in revived. The Department of Health said the figures reflected the "war on bureaucracy", with the abolition of regional

fer network, due to be com-pleted by March, would guar-antee supplies "even if the driest winter ever is followed by the driest summer ever". But with current steady rain predicted to last into

the water regulator Ofwat.

paid to individual customers. with another £80,000 for Wansbeck district council. were now engaged in direct Wansbeck district council, patient care — 66 per cent of which had to cope with the NHS staff now, compared to worst disruption in Ashington and Newbiggip-on-Sea.

Copter blast 'fireworks' NHS market brings tenfold rise in redundancy costs

Tourist tells of RAF Chinook's last nook "flying in straight and level flight" towards the Mull of Kintyre Mark Holbrook, a scientific

HOLIDAYMAKER yes-terday described how he was almost how up in a helicopter crash while hunting for remains of wrecked aircraft on a foggy Scottish hillside.

Russell Ellacott noticed a sudden increase in pressure and temperature shortly before he heard the noise of rotor blades and an explosion "like a fireworks display". "It was almost like it went

of, recognise and recreate patover us," Mr Ellacott, from St terns: familiar with number songs, counting games; match Leonard's-on-Sea, East Sussex, told the second day of the and count everyday objects; fatal accident inquiry into the crash of an RAF Chinook on use numbers to 10; begin to show awareness of adding Creative: Explore sound and colour, texture, shape, form and space in two and three

the Mull of Kintyre in June. 1994. Ten RUC special branch officers, nine army intelligence officers and six MI5 members were among 29 killed in the accident, which a Ministry of Defence investigation blamed on pilot error. Mr Ellacott told the Paisley.

of Kintyre "to see what Paul McCartney was on about". A lighthouse keeper gave them directions to the site of a demaking their way along a track in thick fog when "there was a feeling of pres-sure and a warmth," he said. "I instinctively made a duck," Mr Ellacott told John Mitchell QC, for the Crown. He went on: "There was a

sound of helicopter blades for about three or four seconds, then a thud, then things going up in the air from the ridge where we had just walked. There was smoke, and things going up in the air. It was on fire - whatever it was

Smoke prevented them reaching the wreckage, but skirting round it they reached a flatter section of about it. It wasn't a familiar hillside where they found a noise. Having said that, I'm body. body. A yachtsman told the in-

Stewarton, Strathclyde, said sea level visibility was good as the glant helicopter headed directions to the site of a de-serted village where they would find the remains of sumed the Chinook was makwartime aircraft. They were ing for the RAF base at Machrihanish, a few miles to the north of the Mull of Kintyre,

> Earlier, the inquiry heard how villagers in Northern Ire-land had been intrigued by the Chinook's low height as it flew towards the Northern

in cloud.

Anne Tyler, aged 40, from Carnlough, Co Antrim, said she could see trees on the far side of the glen above the level of the helicopter. She had also thought there was that was going up in the air, it was on fire." something odd about the sound of the Chinook's twin

"It was a very loud noise. There was something strange ing there was something Strathclyde, inquiry that he A yachtsman told the in- ing there was and a friend went to the Mull quiry he had spotted the Chi- about that noise."

David Brindle, Social

pay-offs for National Health Service staff has soared almost tenfold since the Government introduced the market system, official figures show today.

The NHS in England alone

spent £113.6 million on redundancy payments last year. In 1990/91, the year before the market system began, it spent £11.7 million. The spiral has emerged as

nursing unions claim that NHS trusts are cutting the jobs of nurses and other clini-cal staff under the drive ordered by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, to reduce management spending by 5 per cent. According to today's issue

of Nursing Times, senior cli-nicians are being caught up in the drive. Unison, the biggest health union, says that of 20 jobs at risk at one trust, the Chesterfield and North Derbyshire royal hospital, a "negligible" number represent management.

The costs have been obtained through parliamentary

However, a breakdown of the figures shows that £75.1 million (66 per cent) of the costs last year were incurred not by health authorities but by trusts. Ministers have acknowledged that trusts are making reviews of "skill mix" - the

fied staff.



Notebook



Muslims get chance to rule Turkey

Jonathan Rugman

be heading for prolonged political instability yesterday when President Suleyman Demirel announced that the radical pro-Islamic Welfare Party is to form the next coalition

We know how to form a government, everything will be done through democratic channels." Welfare's leader, Necmettin Erbakan, said in an apparent attempt to soothe a secular establishment frightened by the prospect of his taking power.

There is a hundred per cent chance that we can form a coalition with all the other parties," Mr Erbakan, aged 69, said earlier. "They are our

Welfare took 21.3 per cent of the vote in polls three weeks ago, defeating the centre-right True Path Party (DYP) of the outgoing prime minister, Tansu Ciller, and the Mother-land Party (ANAP) of her rival Mesut Yilmaz. They jos-tled for second place with over 19 per cent each.

Although the vast majority of voters in this westward-leaning Nato country backed secular parties instead of Welfare, President Demirel has bowed to pressure from those who predicted another Algewere undeniably first past the post — were deprived of the

But Mr Erbakan's chances of forming a coalition within the allotted 45 days looked bleak yesterday. Mrs Ciller said she would "prefer a co-alition with ANAP", while Mr Yilmaz indicated that the DYP was his most likely partner and Welfare would be "the most difficult party with

which to co-operate".

A smiling Mr Erbakan said yesterday: "If the other party leaders do not accept us, then we will sit and watch the show." Earlier in the week he had predicted that Welfare's exclusion would result in an early election in which he would win an overwhelming

At Monday's opening of parliament, Mr Erbakan's 158 MPs joined in the traditional oath of allegiance to the secular republic.

Welfare has recently toned down its religious and anti-Western rhetoric, clearly hop-ing to boost its chances of sticking points.

Three killed in Toyota attack

EFTWING extremists __shot dead two leading Turkish businessmen and a company secretary at Toyota's headquarters in Istan-

bul yesterday. One of the dead was Ozdemir Sabanci, aged 54, Toyota's chief executive in Turkey and a member of one of the country's richest industrialist clans. The killings were claimed by the Revolutionary People's Libera-tion Party/Front which said that it would "con-tinue to take revenge [for] blood that is spilled by fascism".

The attack was believed to be timed to heighten the sense of confusion in a country which has been in e political vacuum since Tansu Ciller's coalition col-

lapsed last September. The shootings were also believed to be in response to the killing by troops of three prisoners during jail riots last week. Mrs Ciller said last night that new prison regulations would be introduced to prevent further disturbances.

finding a coalition partner. But Mr Erbakan was once jailed by Turkey's generals on charges of trying to over-throw the secular state. He took part in coalitions during the 1970s, a period of political instability that resulted in the 1980 military coup.

Istanbul's stock market index has fallen around 10 per cent since the December 24 per cent and rising sharply in response to post-election

To make matters worse, the period during which Mr Erba-kan has the chance to form a government does not begin until January 19. If he fails, Turkey could still be without a coalition government at the end of next month. Negotiations are under

way to free 23 Turkish prison officials held hostage by inmates in riots sparked by last week's death of three leftwing prisoners, the independent Human Rights Association of Turkey (HRA) said. The HRA said most of the 36

demands by prisoners in Istanbul and Izmir had been resolved, but there were two

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Annually

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Annually 5.75% Tax-free

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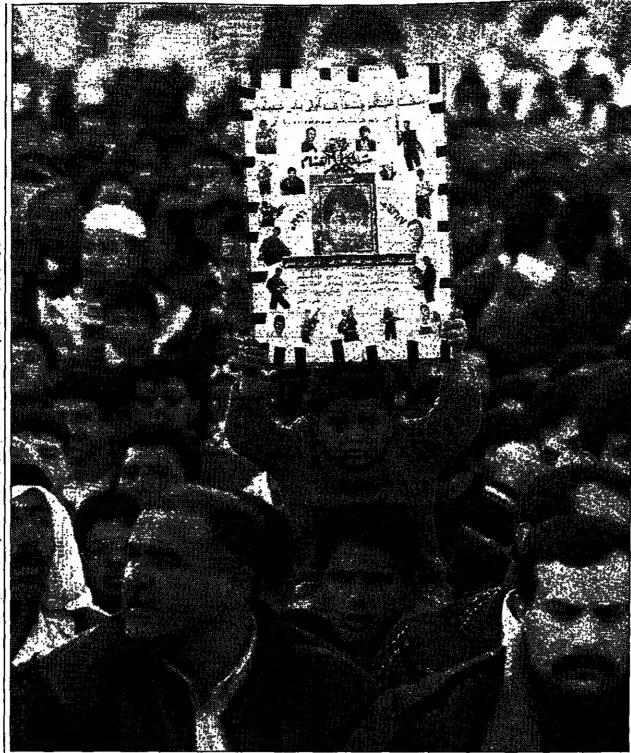
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A boy holds up a photograph of Yahya Ayyash, the Palestinian master bomber killed last week by a booby-trapped mobile telephone, during a memorial rally in Bethlehem yesterday. A warrant was issued for the arrest of Kamal Hamad, a fugitive building contractor believed to have supplied the phone used in the killing PHOTOGRAPH KHALE ZIGHARI

New tank better late than never

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

P.V. Narasimha Rao, yes-terday unveiled the country's first domestically produced battle tank in what would have been a triumph of local engineering, had it not exceeded its budget and been nearly two decades in the

The Arjun is the latest in a line of locally developed hardware which includes missiles training and light aircraft But India's efforts to develop a local defence indussome time." acknowledged Mr Rao, who recalled seeing **C&G** Investment Rates the tank's first protoype. "But I have no doubt the rest of the

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Annually 4.90

2.76** 2.07

improvements and alter ations will be done while production is going on."
Yesterday's hurried inauguration came as a surprise to defence experts who had believed the Arjun was still undergoing tests. The cere-mony south-west of the city was widely seen as a sop to dispirited scientists at the Defence Research and Development Organisation, as well as a display of military might

in an election year.

However, officials dismissed suggestions that it

coloured tank, called Arjun. It

As day gave way to dusk, was linked to reports late last; the Arjun admitted yesterday Mr Rao clambered up to the year that India was contemtured of the new buff. plating a second nuclear test. year that India was contem-plating a second nuclear test following an underground

New Delhi has denied that ern Raiasthan desert are a prelude to a test.

undertaken have gone awry quite badly," said Giri Deshingkar, an Asian security expert at the Centre for the Study of Developing Social "The costs have eties. escalated and, gradually, the proportion of imported com-

ponents has gone up."
This also applies to the Arjun which, together with the light combat aircraft still under development, has been the most controversial of India's defence projects — criti-cised for exceeding budget. delays and technical failings. The first Arjun prototype was built in 1983, and the military expects to build 100 tanks. It is estimated each will cost 100 million rupees (£1.8 million) against 220 million rupees for importing a comparable tank.

they had suffered technical setbacks. While its armour is a local invention, it has a German engine — the Indian al-ternative could not withstand

prolonging development.

But policymakers believe there is little alternative to developing a home-grown de-fence industry.

"The Indian army needs a main battle tank," said Shankar Rochowdhury, the tanks available through world markets are either too expen sive, or are not available to us This leaves us no alternative but to go through the long and

lurched into motion with Mr Rao standing at the helm, clutching alternately at his white shawl and black cap. signs of activity at the Pokharan test site in the westthe deserts where the Arjun

may eventually be deployed. Although the missile sys-"All prestige products that tems are seen as the main the Indian military have success of India's defence pro-

> Indian scientists are also handicapped by the lack of a private ordnance industry. All hardware must be produced in military factories,

comparable tank. painful process of developing But the manufacturers of one from scratch."

Crackdown on 'plot to kill Herbal visionary British envoy in Manila' surveys her turf

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

RITAIN'S ambassador to the Philippines is one of four Western envoys identi-fied as assassination targets in a plot which yesterday prompted President Fidel Ramos to order a crackdown against militant Islamic groups from the Middle East and Pakistan.

Intelligence units were searching yesterday for five alleged members of an organisation named as Hezpel Dawah al-Islamiah, reportedly led by an Iraqi explosives expert and with Lebanese, Palestinian and Bangladeshi members.

The five are said to have planned to murder ambassa dors to the Philippines from Australia, New Zealand and Spain, as well as Britain. Concern about the presence

of extremist Muslim groups, combat-hardened in the Afghan war, has been heightened by reports that Muslim militants may attack a summit of Asian and Pacific lead-ers to be held in the Philippines in November. Raids last month netted 35

foreigners, including a brother and an associate of Ramzi Youssef, the alleged mastermind of the 1992 bombing of the World Trade Centre The police chief, Recaredo

Sarmlento, surmised: "The foreign terrorists are here to train local fundamentalists." train Muslim

Jacqueline Weaver in Coventry, Connecticut

DELMA GRENIER States, never tells her luncheon guests what they are eating until they have swallowed the last morsel. Ms Simmons, founder of

the Caprilands Herb Farm, does not want to intimidate those who might not like the idea of drinking sweet woodruff in their wine, or eating nasturtiums in their salad. "Years ago, it was very

common for people to pick the green out of their food, put it on a butter plate and send it back to the kitchen," Ms Simmons said. "People were afraid of greens. Then we bad a great many men who would say: 'I'm a meatand-potato man.

But today her lectures are often booked out, as Caprilands benefits from the growing popularity of gar-dening, which has become a favourite pastime in the US, especially among baby boomers and pensioners.

Ms Simmons has written 48 books on herbal gardening, herbal folklore, and the use of herbs in cooking and decorating. Folklore is her primary

interest. For instance, she says anise is thought to farm can find 34 gardens as avert the evil eye, and well as period or reproduc-Johnny Jump Ups are be- tion buildings. - Reuter.

lieved to soothe an aching heart. But Ms Simmons says Caprilands has shied away from dispensing herbs as medicine.

Simmons, who has "We won't advise anyone inspired the planting on anything except herbal of thousands of herb gar-dens across the United after all, are backed up. The herb person stands alone. Our whole idea has been to grow [herbs] for fragrance, and for food, and for beauty."

Among Ms Simmons's most avid followers are senior citizens who, because of age or limited finances, have moved to more modest homes and want to grow herbs and flowers in small kitchen gardens or containers.

"Suddenly, they are faced with nothing and are begin-ning to realise how precious a garden is.' She first came to Coven-

try as a young woman in 1929, when her parents took over a neglected and run-down farm. Ms Simmons developed a love of gardening while spending summers as a child in her grandfather's mountaintop home in Vermont.

She began by planting one small plot, the Butter fly Garden. As she worked. she envisaged a cluster of small gardens, each depicting one aspect of herb growing: "a living, natural workshop".

Now visitors to the 58-acre

News in brief

S Korea's president admits cash help

PRESIDENT Kim Young sam of South Korea admitted wrong-doing yesterday in connection with political support he received before he became president. But in a televised New Year address he did not directly address the issue of whether he took money from a \$654 million (£436 million) slush fund his predecessor, Roh Tae-woo, has confessed to amassing while in

Mr Kim said he took help from supporters for political Mr Kim said he took help from supported for pointed activities before he was elected president in 1992. "No politician, including myself, could have avoided such wrong practices as these." he said. Mr Roh is on trial for corruption for allegedly accepting bribes from business moguls to build his slush fund. The heads of seven business conglomerates are on

Another former president, Chun Doo Hwan, is expected to be indicted on similar corruption charges. Mr Chun and Mr Roh have also been indicted for mutiny stemming from a coup in

Arafat wins financial aid

International donors pledged a total of \$1.37 billion (£913.3 million) in aid to the Palestinian Authority yesterday, two weeks before the first elections in the autonomous West Bank and Gaza

before the first elections in the autonomous West Bank and Gaza Strip, delegates at a one-day donors' conference in Paris said.

A Canadian delegate said the money consisted of \$500 million previously committed, but not yet disbursed, and a further \$855 million in new funds pledged at the conference. The figures were confirmed by Hervé de Charette, the French foreign minister. He called the pledge "a strong signal by the international community a few days before the January 20 elections". The decision was a boost for Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, who appealed for \$1.3 billion to bolster the peace accord with Israel. — Renter, Puris.

Unita says yes to peace talks

UNITA, Angola's former rebel movement, said yesterday it had agreed with the government on a new timetable to put the country's peace process back on track. "The process reached a this has been think the back of the process reached a think has been track to be the back of the process reached a think has been track to be the back of the process reached a think has been tracked to be the back of the process reached a think has been tracked to be the back of the process reached a think has been tracked to be the process reached a think has been tracked to be the process reached a tracked tracked to be the process reached a tracked tracke low point, but this is not our worry at the moment . . . this has been overcome but it is necessary to relaunch the process," Abel Chivukuvuku, the Unita representative, told a news conference in

Unite halted the demobilisation of its fighters under a 13-Unine nation the demonstration of its lighters inter a 157 month-old peace accord late last year after government troops launched a fresh offensive against the rebels in the north. After meeting President Mario Soares of Portugal yesterday, Mr Chivukuvuku told the news conference that the peace process which ended 19 years of civil war was back on track and Units will the population would require to I needs the meak to discuss the conference that the meak to discuss the conference of the confe military commanders would travel to Luanda this week to discuss details of the new schedule. — Reuter, Luanda.

Storm leaves death and chaos

A BLIZZARD which claimed at least 59 lives in the eastern United States, clogged city streets and kept students and government

workers at home, has moved out to sea. Most big airports from Washington northwards remained closed and flights were cancelled. One runway at New York's JFK citised and nights westerday morning after the wind died down, but delays were expected for a couple of days. "We're going to be digging out for several days," groaned Glenn Grant, city business administrator in Newark, New Jersey. — AP, New York.

Strike paralyses Bangladesh

BANGLADESH was largely paralysed for a second day yesterday by an opposition-led general strike as a row over elections in February intensified. Opposition leaders, including Sheikh Hasina, head of the Awami League, described a decision on Monday to postpone the elections from February 7 to February 15 as an ittempt to "hoodwink" Bangladeshis.

He said the only way out of the country's long-running political crisis was the resignation of the prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, and a transfer of power to a neutral caretaker administration. — Reuter, Dhaka.

Spy-swap lawyer found guilty

WOLFGANG VOCEL, the former East Berlin lawyer who organised spy swaps during the cold war, was convicted by a Berlin court yesterday of extorting money from would-be East German amigrants. He was given a two-year suspended sentence and fined \$2,000 marks (£42,330). The court found him guilty of blackmailing his clients, perjury and falsifying documents.

Prosecutors said Vogel, one of the cold war's most shadowy figures, abused his position as East Berlin's unofficial East-West go-between to make East German emigrants sell their property at cut-price rates to leading Communists. - Reuter, Berlin.

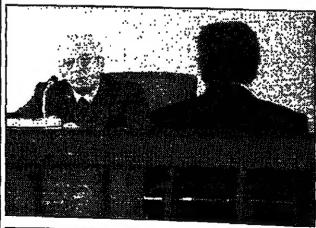
Mafia boss feared ridicule

TOMMASO BUSCETTA, the Mafia boss turned informer, gives evidence yesterday to Judge Francesco Ingargiola at the trial of Guillo Andreotti, the former Italian prime minister, over his alleged ties with the Mafia. The trial was moved mporarily from Sicily to a high security court in a prison in Padua, north Italy.

Buscetta, who turned state's evidence in 1984, said he could have exposed Mr Andreotti's Mafia links more than 10 years ago, but he feared efforts would be made to discredit his evidence. He is the first boss to expose the Sicilian Mafia's imner workings and one of Mr Andreotti's main accusers. They came face to face for the first time yesterday.

"I could have named Andreotti from the moment I began cooperating." Buscetta, aged 57, told the court. "But he was so powerful that I would have been ridiculed and my other testimony on the workings of the Mafia would have been discredited."

Mr Andreotti, who was prime minister seven times, denies charges that he served as the Maña's chief political protector in Rome. - Reuter, Padua.



'Free my daughter' appeal

THE mother of a German tourist kidnapped a week ago by an armed gang in Costa Rica made a dramatic appeal for her release

armed gang in Costa Rica made a dramatic appeal for her release in a message carried on national radio and television.

"Niki is my only child, she is all I have," said Karen Fleuchaus, the mother of the kidnapped tourist Nicola Fleuchaus, aged 24.

Addressing the kidnappers, she added: "Give har back to me safe and sound. I am ready to do everything possible to achieve that, Give me the opportunity. Tell me what I can do. God be with

(Today,)

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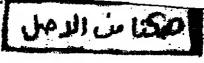
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"[would like to reach out my hands to you and show you that I have good thoughts towards you. Allow me to speak to you as a

Nicola Fleuchaus and a Swiss tour guide Regula Siegfried, aged 50, were seized at gunpoint on January 1 after nine men and a woman stormed a jungle hotel where they were staying near the Nicaraguan border in northern Costa Rica. The gang is demanding a \$1 million (£540,000) ransom. Nicola's mother, who arrived in Costa Rica last week, recorded the message at a San José radio station. — Reuter.



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Vexed Yeltsin hunts for scapegoat

The chaos provoked by the latest bloody Chechen débâcle bodes ill for the beleaguered Russian president, writes David Hearst in Moscow

ered from his second heart attack and is facing an uphill battle for re-election this summer, was plunged into a new political crisis last night by the seizure of hostages in the

the seizure of hostages in the Dagestani border town of Kizlyar.

Summoning his top generals to an emergency meeting im Moscow. Mr Yeltsin angrily upbraided them in front of the nation's television cameras for letting Chechen rebels slip past thousands of Russian troops to stage what they had long been threatening: a

USSIA'S president, seige of a hospital in Budyon-Boris Yeltsin, who has barely recov-The prime minister. Viktor The prime minister, Viktor The prime minister. VIKTOR Chernomyrdin, looked on uncomfortably as Mr Yeltsin stabbed his finger on the table, saying: "How should I understand you, generals? Do you think this is kids play? What have you done instead of effec-

long been threatening: a trol of all the ministries repeat of last year's bloody which control armed forces,

including the nuclear "red button", during his two months in hospital.

But the bald fact is that the president — who began his unofficial campaign for reelection by claiming that he is in full control — has run out of generals to blame for his difficulties in Chechenia.



forces were about to surround view that defeat had been sure from the United States from the rebels.

Gen Grachev and his generals made little secret of their dent had come under pressident, Besides, Gen Grachev is not those whom Mr Yeltsin gotiate rather than obliterate.

Besides, Gen Grachev is not the little secret of their dent had come under pressident, Besides, Gen Grachev is not the little secret of their dent had come under pressident.

in charge: it is widely known | president himself. Having as-that the war was officially sumed the direct power of apover soon after his troops recaptured the Chechen capital, Grozny, in January last year. Mopping up operations were then transferred to the "civilian" authority of minis-

try of interior forces. The buck was passed from Gen Grachev to the then interior minister, Viktor Yerin, who in turn became one of the first casualties of the Budyon-novsk flasco. The man facing the full force of Mr Yeltsin's wrath yesterday was Anatoli Kulikov, whom the president had personally appointed to clean up the interior minis-

try's act.
Mr Kulikov was caught completely unawares by the events of Kizlyar — he was "on holiday" when the incident occurred. He was one of pointment of top generals, Mr Yeltsin appears to voters as ill-equipped to select the right

people.
The Kremlin's conduct of a war in which thousands of Russian troops and untold numbers of Russian and Chechen civilians have died, is littered with reversals, empty

words, vacillation and incompetence.

The professionals have been sidelined. In desperation for someone to blame, Mr Yeltsin turned on one of his closest allies, Andrei Nikolayev, head of the Russian border guard, blaming his troops for failing to protect the frontier between

Chechenia and Dagestan.
In reality, this border is an internal one and Mr Nikolayev's troops were not there in any number. Their responsi-bility is to protect the external borders of Russia.

the ministers present yester-day were apparently caught napping. They had deployed their forces to block the roads north, to protect the southern flank of Russia proper. Dage-stan, east of Chechenia is a predominantly Muslim, north Caucasian republic. The Chechen fighters were not expected to attack their own brethren, whom they want to join in an independent Muslim "Confederation of Moun-

tain Peoples". The attack on Kizlyar , about 75 miles north-east of Grozny, marks a dangerous turn of events in the tinder-box of the north Caucasus. There are more than 100 ethnic groups in Dagestan alone, and the spreading of the war is bound to have repercussions.

Far from isolating the flames of Chechen rebellion Moscow appears to have

Lone wolf' rules mountain roost

David Hearst in Moscow

SALMAN RADUYEV, the Russians levelled the town centre, sustaining town casualties.

Chechen field commanders.

Like other Chechen commanders, Mr Raduyev has such men wield more power than their position

Mr Raduyev, aged 29, the son-in-law of Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, first came to the fore in December 1994 when Russian sources accused him of "trying to stage provoca-tions" against Russian troops in neighbouring

His slogan then was "Let the Caucasus be ablaze". This prompted two unnamed Russian commanders to threaten to "wipe out" Mr Raduyev's clan. Mr Raduyev has been de-

scribed as "prefect" of Gu-dermes. Chechenia's second city. His unit was the last to leave Gudermes before it was occupied by the Russians in December. A month later he was reported as saying he had

supplied Mr Dudayev's relatives in Dagestan with 6,000 tons of diesel fuel. This is a medieval world which the Russians had given to Gudermes in aid. Mr Raduyev is said to be

chen leadership. The city was only recaptured after the Russians levelled the

manders, Mr Raduyev has surrounded himself with a core group of fighters whose first loyalty is to him --- which poses problems for the Chechen independence cause. A similar figure is Shamil Basayev who led the mass hostage-taking in the southern Russian town of Budyonnovsk last year, He and most of his men es-

caped unpunished.

The newspaper Argumenti i Facti, quoting "reliable sources", said recently that Mr Basayev was unhappy about the way field commanders were financed by Mr Dudayev. He repor-tedly threatened to declare his district, Vedeno, independent from Mr Dudayev. In the mountainous backwoods of Chechenia such threats are not idle. Mr Basayev's brother Shirvani is the commander of Vedeno, and in their fieldom the Ba-

of barons, whose troops are prepared to die for them and for Allah. Even if Cheone of the organisers of last chemia were to win inde-month's mass rebel attack pendence from Russia, it on Gudermes, staged in an might not be long before attempt to prevent the Mos-cow-backed government of the new statelet began to



Wolf in wolf's clothing . . . The Chechen rebel leader, Salman Raduyev, inside the seized hospital in Kizlyar yesterday

Tram killing rekindles fears in Sarajevo Russia selects

Jonathan Steele

HE horror of rocket fire returned to Sarajevo yesterday claiming the first civilian victim since Nato forces took over peacekeeping duties from the United Nations last month.

The rocket-propelled gre

nade, which hit a tram not far from "sniper's alley" where hundreds died in nearly four years of siege, came as Bos-nian Serbs kept up their war of nerves to delay returning rebel-held suburbs to government control

One person died and at least five were wounded when the tram was hit near the Marshal Tito barracks by a grenade

fired back with 20-millimetre guns and small arms, and sent several armoured vehicles

into the area.

The grenade, which did not explode, went through the tram, hitting the man. "If it had gone off, casualties would have been much higher," a senior Western source said. One of the wounded, Nedz-

was packed. Everyone started screaming. I collapsed on the floor and someone took me out and put me in a car for the hospital. I ride trams all the

A seven-year-old boy was two weeks later.

fired from the Serb-held Grba-vica sector. French troops by shrapnel.

Earlier, less than two miles away across the old partition lines which must be dismantled under the Dayton peace accords, smoke and flames rose above Serb military facilities due to be abandoned.

Bosnian Serb leaders have threatened to launch a scorched-earth policy and organise a mass evacuation of mina Cuprija, aged 25, said in Kosevo hospital: "The tram peace implementation force, agrees to delay the handover deadline. The Bosnian Serbs are due to abandon frontline positions and remove explo-sives and ammunition dumps time, but who could have anticipated this?"

by January 19. They must give up the rest of the area

itary withdrawal rather than They maintain that many ci-vilians want to stay, provided that the Bosnian government guarantees their safety.

But after four years of propaganda by their own leader-ship, they fear transfer to what is called "Muslim rule". The Bosnian Serb leadership has also been resisting I-FOR's attempts to open Serbpass through from the gov-ernment side. Sixteen civil-

Nato sources said the fires visit American troops in Bos-appeared to be part of the mil-nia this weekend. But the new flare-up of tension in Sarajevo the torching of civilian will raise doubts over homes, as was first feared. whether he will have to confine his trip to trouble-free Tuzla in northern Bosnia, where most of the troops are

> The violence also shows the weakness of the Dayton peace accords, which did not provide for a powerful police force to protect civilians.

Ironically, yesterday's attack coincided with the official end of the Sarajevo siege and the suspension of the UN airlift. The last sacks of flour ians were detained for several were unloaded from a French days and were only freed after intense diplomatic pressure.

President Clinton is due to ceremony.

Earlier, Mr Bildt warned

members of the European Parliament that without

reconciliation between the

former warring parties the

entire peace process would

He echoed criticisms yes-

terday by the US presiden-

'troublemaker' Our Correspondent in Moscow

EVGENY PRIMAKOV, aged 66, the hardline chief of the foreign intelligence service, was last night appointed Russia's foreign minister, a key post in a year in which Russia will attempt to reassert its role as a Euro-

Asian power. Washington sees Mr Primakov as a troublemaker, but officials were restrained in their comments about him yesterday. As a special adviser to then-president, Mikhail Gorbachev, he played have become bogged down over the issue of Nato expansion in eastern Europe, about Gulf war by pressing the international community to give Iraq more chances to For President Yeltsin, Mr give Iraq more chances to avoid outright conflict.

demic and Middle East specialist. He spent much of his life abroad as a journalist. US officials see Mr Primakov as a nationalist rightwinger in his policies and political associations. He retains strong ties throughout Mr Primakov is an aca-demic and Middle East retains strong ties throughout the Middle East, including with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

He is expected to promote a more assertive foreign policy, not necessarily as closely linked to that of the United States and the West as Rus-

He will be different in tone local Croat forces. "The from his pro-Western prede-Croat government could do | cessor, the former radical democrat Andrei Kozyrev, who resigned last week to take up a seat in parliament. "He was never a great ad-

Mr Primakov clashed

able as Mr Kozyrev was to political fire from the Communists and the nationalists. After four years of a foreign policy centred on Russia's

relationship with the West, Russia is once again turning to its client states in the Middle East and Central Asia and to China for its main markets and partners. The centrepiece of President Yeltsin's foreign policy

this year will be a delayed visit to Beijing and Shanghai,

Primakov is a clever appointback, from the challenges of bar Zavgayev, to be bandits. Communist and nationalist Jan 9, 1996: Chechen fighters

to hostage drama in Dagestan Oct 1991: Soviet air force general Dzhokhar Dudayev

Countdown

wins presidential poll, amid claims of rigging, declares Chechenia independent. Nov 1991: President Boris Yeltsin declares state of emer-gency in Chechen-Ingushetia

and sends troops to Grozny. Blocked at the sirport, they pull out after three days. April 1994: Dudayev declares one-man rule. Nov 1994: Rebels attack

Grozny, with Russian tanks, although denied by Moscow. Russian planes bomb Grozny. Dec 11, 1994: 40,000 Russian troops move into Chechenia. March 1995: Grozny, in threatens attacks in Russia. April 1995: Yeltsin orders

unilateral ceasefire.
June 14, 1995: Some 100
armed rebels take over 1,000 hostages in southern Russian town of Budyonnovsk. June 18, 1995: With Yeltsin

abroad, Russian prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin orders halt to storming attempts and negotiates with rebel leader Shamil Basayev. June 19, 1995: Gunmen return to Chechenia with remaining hosiages, who are experiently freed Paper tells. eventually freed. Peace talks are set up in Grozny. June 22, 1995: Two sides

reach outline agreement to end hostilities.

July 4, 1995: Yeltsin issues decree for permanent Russian army presence in Chechenia. Chechens claim this breaks previous agreement.
July 30, 1995: Negotiators sign accord on gradual dis-arming of rebels in exchange for partial Russian pullout. In-

dependence issue put on bold. Summer 1995: Yeltsin vetoes "zero option" plan for troop withdrawal and resignation withdrawal and resignation of Moscow-backed officials, in return for Dudayev's resignation, pending elections.

Sept 20, 1995: Oleg Lobov, Yeltsin's envoy in Chechenia, escapes attack near Grozny.

Oct 6, 1995: Russian commander in Chechenia, a downing at the commander of the chenia, a commander in Chechenia, a commander in Chec

in peace talks, Anatoly Romanov. seriously wounded in car bomb blast in Grozny. November 1995: Doku Zav-gayev, a Chechen clan leader, put in charge of new regional administration. Narrowly es-Nov 18, 1995: Dudayev warns Russia that a Chechen election in December could

trigger new violence. ec 4, 1995: Car bomb kills at least five near government Dec 14, 1995: Rebels seize Gu-

city. Forced out a week later with hundreds killed. Dec 17, 1995: Zavgayev wins Jan 3, 1996: Lieutenant-Gen-eral Vyacheslav Tikhomirov

mander in Chechenia and de-

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telephone their 24 hour order line on 01206 825600 (quoting reference Tin). Allow up how diet can be effective. three months for a full You'll also discover how refund if not satisfied.

Bildt struggles to make his mark in Bosnia

John Palmer in Brussels reports on the tough hand-to-mouth existence of the man monitoring the overall peace agreement between the old UN operation and the new peace enforcement mission," Mr Bildt said.

ARL BILDT, the "high representative" charged with co-ordinating the civilian side of the peace settlement in Bos-nia, found himself playing the underworld last week. He had to break off diplomatic efforts in Sarajevo to fly to Brussels, collect 300,000 German marks (£138,000), and bring the notes back to Sarajevo.

"I personally went to a the extraordinary contrast bank in Brussels to with draw 300,000 Deutsch- ternational project to enmarks, put the bag in my suitcase and returned to Sa-rajevo. I had to satisfy the bank about my identity that I intended heading back to Bosnia and would not be flying off to the Bahamas," the former Swedish prime minister ex-

Today, it is government

that is destroying

national monuments

and anarchists who

of the operation. Mr Bildt was forced to bring cash with him into Sarajevo, because this was the only way he could pay for the offices and tele-phone lines needed to allow plained yesterday. The episode highlights his embryo mission to begin operating. "Everything in Sarajevo is done on a cash basis and the German mark is the local cur-

rency," he added. Life would have been much easier for Mr Bildt and his tiny staff if they had been allowed to move into the headquarters left behind in Sarajevo by the departing Unprofor departing mission.

Congress, it was essential Parliament to make a complete break The US, v

It seems that the remain-

ing potential headquarters in Sarajevo were quickly secured by Nato for its I-FOR command. "We are between the ambitious in-ternational project to enforce peace and help rebuild Bosnia and the now building up to a Sarajevo staff of between 50 and bizarre hand-to-mouth 60 officials — as well as a beadquarters in Brussels," organisation and financing Mr Bildt said. Mr Bildt is charged with monitoring the overall

peace agreement and co-ordinating the different civil-ian operations. These in-clude economic reconstruction (led by the World Bank), the establishment of democratic elections (the responsibility of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe) and the return of the refugees to their bomes (the UN High Commis-

sioner for Refugees). So far, all the funds to launch the civilian side of the peace implementation "For political reasons, especially because of the feelings of the United States sion and the European ing 34 British soldiers, was

Bosnian Serbs last year, it has been claimed. The

Mr Bildt observed.

The US, whose govern- Convention.

Yorkshire Post says treatment of some of the 300 peacekeepers who were in breach of the Geneva

tial advisor, Robert Gal-lucci, about Croat obstruction of efforts to unite the southern city of Mostar, the scene of violent sian foreign policy has been confrontations recently between the nominally allied Soviet Union. Bosnian Federation and

more to help in Mostar," • British soldiers were subjected to torture including mock executions when mirer of the West, but he is a they were held hostage by man without prejudice," said

openly with the West in a report he presented in 1994, in which he accused the West of trying to impede the reintegration of the former Soviet republics. The new foreign minister will not be as vulner-

are trying to save them. George Monbiot **02** page 12

Pride swells to soften grief

Alex Duval-Smith in Paris sees France coming to terms with François Mitterrand's death while below, Serge July pays tribute to a leader whose life took almost exactly the course he planned

spired by François Mitterrand's death looks set to do more for President Jacques Chirac's popularity than any of

In cafés and on media talk shows, the overwhelming feeling in the build-up to the former president's funeral reading Le Monde yesterday.

A few paces from the cafe, Pierre Blat, a 50-year-old vendor was taking comfort in the a historic figure.

Le Monde's leader yester-day afternoon, said that the death "of a great man makes France conscious of its place

HE outpouring of having his finger on the nation's pulse. He has been generous about his predecessor's role in post-war French life and has ordered that flags be flown at half-mast.

"Chirac comes out of this very well. He is respectful and gentle with his words. That is what people want," said Jean Calvo, a 35-year-old architect

soaraway sales of newspapers and magazines since news of Mitterrand's death "We usually sell about 100

copies a day of Le Monde. Un-fortunately, their special edi-President Chirac has, for tion on Monday afternoon the first time since his election in May, showed proof of receive many copies."

In front of him were special editions of Paris-Match, L'Express magazine and Texte In-tegral, a publication which only appears after significant events. Each of the daily newspapers had produced supplements of up to 24 pages. Mr Blat, who has worked in the kiosk for eight years, sald: "I have never seen such inter-

A middle-aged woman asked for a crossword-puzzle book. Seeing the array of Mitterranderle — including the former socialist president's name in red, white and blue on the cover of Paris-Match — she weakened. "I'll have one of those too. I never agreed of those, too, I never agreed with Mitterrand but you have

the single exception of the MCM music channel and the cable channel Canal + have all changed their schedules. Even the youth station M6, whose viewers are aged between 15 and 34, broadcast several clips about what they call the "Mitterrand Genera-tion", those who knew no other president until Mr Chirac's election.

At Arte, the quality Franco-German channel founded under Mitterrand, Jérôme Clément, its managing direc-tor, said: "Mitterrand was a great promoter of the arts and architecture. His commitment to Europe is also a story for us because it is the es-Tomorrow morning, the France 2 and France 3, will broadcast live from Jarnac where Mitterrand is to be buried. They will show pictures from the mass at the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris which Mr Chirac and foreign dignitaries will

What all the media coverage lacks is critical analysis. In its 32-page supplement yes-terday, Libération referred to Mitterrand's links with the Vichy wartime regime as "a necessary process" in his po-litical development.

Elsewhere, his decision to order French secret services to bomb the Rainbow Warrior in July 1985 is referred to as an event, not a mistake.

Television stations, with main television stations TF1. | terday that Mitterrand first had inoperable cancer as far back as 1981, despite his promises to keep the public informed through regular health bulletins. President Chirac has failed to reveal any details about his health.

Yesterday, people contin-ued to file past the front door of 9, Avenue Frédéric-Le Play, the block of flats near the Eiffel Tower where Mitterrand died on Monday morning. Along the outside wall and at-tached to the doors were bouquets of flowers and hundreds

of single red roses. This evening, thousands of people are expected to return to Place de la Bastille where on May 10, 1981, they cele-brated Mitterrand's first pres-

Agnelli hits at critics

ly's foreign minister Susanna Agnelli as Italy prepares to take up the presidency of the take up the presidency of the European Union. The Times article said her "federalist programme" was tikely to "ring alarm bells in Britain". Corriere della Sera asked her to

CORRIERE DELLA SERA

S I recall, there were plenty of critthe course of the last Italian presidency, particularly from the British. And I consider it in fairly poor taste for a European country to criticise the foreign policy of a fellow member nation or the person responsible for it, and I think it is even more gross that certain Italian politicians have been associating themselves the course of the last Italian been associating themselves with those criticisms levelled

from abroad. "It was a mistake for the Times to condemn my style, and I've never had any such criticism levelled at me be-

fore. Apart from that, the tone of the article was not unkind.

"The thing that upsets me about the article is that it makes it seem as though I'd suddenly materialised into letters." Italian politics from some Roman drawing-room. I don't that I was under-secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Af-fairs for eight years." Did she think that a weak Italian presidency might be a

good thing? "Some might pos-sibly be tempted to think such ungenerous thoughts. But we must be clear on one thing.

Italy is one of the founder countries of the European Union, and we have the right to say what we think and to make our voice heard. We have some extremely impor-tant deadlines ahead of us.

There is the opening of the intergovernmental conference to revise the Maastricht Treaty. There is also the proess of expansion which is set cess of expansion which is set to change the face of the Union, and which will require a whole series of in-stitutional and functional changes. Then there is the ex-tension of the majority vote, and of course, the march towards a single currency.

"There are different points of view and interests but I feel that the majority of the countries involved still want Europe. This is the central issue, and it will have to lead to a compromise in the end. And here lies the importance | with France.



Susanna Agnelli: The Times mistaken in its criticism

of our presidency and of those The EU presidency is being taken up against a back-ground of uncertaintly in Ital-ian politics, so would it have been better to vote (have a

general election] first?
"Undoubtedly, but it's pointless talking about what's gone before. What our part-ners want is clarity and predictability. But we are unpredictable. After all the talk we might even end up doing the worst possible thing and hold-ing the elections halfway through our EU presidency.

Having said this, we are well prepared for the presi-dency. We have excellent officials in both Rome and Brussels, so things would just CRITY On.

And what about relations with France? After the much [about Italy meeting the con-vergence criteria in time to join the first wave into a single currency and over France's nuclear tests] President Chirac announced at the Madrid summit that it was all in the past. Did she agree that the two diplomatic services were looking for some way to reach a new understanding?

"It really is all in the past Moreover, my relations with my colleague Herve de Char-ette [France's foreign minister] have always been excellent even when he warned me that if, at the UN conference, we voted on the nuclear issue in the way we did subse-quently vote, then he would not come to Naples. That's all

over now.
"The French president is due to visit the Vatican on January 20 and immediately afterwards I shall be meeting Mr de Charette in Rome. We'll be talking about the work we must do together for the sake of Europe. There's no question about our friendship

A companion in times of change



RANCOIS Mitterrand died a free man. That was the obsession of his life. "There is not a force in the world in the face of which I do not feel myself to be free," the former president liked to say. He wanted in a fanatical, opinionated, tireless, always im-placable and sometimes cruel way, against the winds and tides, to be the author of his own life. And he will have cceeded, even delivering an ultimatum to the sickness that afflicted him for so long. That is without doubt what explains the exceptional fasci-nation and the equally exceptional irritation, when not

repulsion, he inspired during more than a half-century. François Mitterrand, who dreamed of being a writer, will have written a bestseller: his political career. This will was the indelible stamp of the former president. He was the one who believed in politics when surrounded by those who no longer believed or believed in something else.
François Mitterrand, like
all French people, had the passion of "grands hommes" with the enjoyment of one Every people has its great who knows that history is men, but unlike in most countries, in France the human beings and that when grand homms is the object of an ambitious leader tries to sired to play. That is a rare a national religion. France is conquer it, the result is pain-privilege. He wanted to imthe only country to have a Pantheon, and it was there that Mitterrand began his

he even entered the Elysée. What distinguishes a grand homme of politics first of all is that he reigns or is ranked alongside that small group of those kings, cardinals, and emperors, presidents and heads of state whose personal ambitions were part of what made France what it is today. François Mitterrand was a

first seven-year term, before

believer in history, unreserv-edly and without disillusionment, the history of men, nations and societies, the history of the balance of power. geographical determinants and collective invariables, as well in history dotted with

Chirac salutes a Euro-missiles against the Soviet offensive in Europe, the 1983 economic watershed. passion for life

François Mitterrand — a great will. He showed a willingness to serve the ideals of solidarity and social justice, and the humanism that has increasingly become entrenched in our country's traditions . . . In politics François Mit-terrand was always deeply respectful of human beings. He was always respectful of the rights of man, never ceasing to intervene wher-

ridicule . . . But, François Mitterrand was above and before all a life . . . if his life was over-flowing, it was because he had a great passion for life. Life in its dark hours and in its glorious moments.

ever those were held up to

of time, the erosion of stones and of memories. He loved and of memories. He loved trees, especially cake, narrow paths and forgotten cemeteries, chilly museums, the warmth of eloquence that is not dry, the lasting quality of monuments. In short, the transformation of Paris.

He frequented all of these with the enjoyment of one

ful for all concerned.

His presidency was domi-nated by six modernisations; economic, financial, institutional, media, European and geopolitical. Some of these were endured, others ac-cepted for what they were, though they were rarely desired, apart from Europe. But changes of direction were made. In politics it is the event which rules. This attitude explains his flexibility when faced with the unexpected, his ability to ma-

noeuvre day by day and let events take their course. This did not stop François Mitterrand from making mis-takes, but he did so without ideological obstinacy. This is how he was able to take key decisions, such as the aboliapparently minor traces, all decisions, such as the aboli-that remains after the passage tion of the death penalty,

the expanded European mar-ket, the two co-habitations with an opposition govern-ment, the double rescue of Yasser Arafat, participation in the Gulf war, then engage-ment in Bosnia, the refurbishment of the Louvre, the Maas tricht treaty to accompany François Mitterrand pre-sided over a fin-de-siècle world that was changing radically

from day to day, inevitably tossing aside everything in its path, particularly the landof social democracy to which he was so attached. A new world, without full employment, uncertain, dislocated and subject to the slightest disturbance. François Mitterrand bent but never broke. He would have preferred to

manage growth rather than austerity, war rather than peace. But somehow or other, he managed to sort out this unexpected shambles, some-times with daring, sometimes muddling through, even im-potently, yet always there. He was not a visionary, but he was an exceptional companion in times of great change. François Mitterrand dreamed of his life taking almost exactly the course it took: he acted it out and per-

formed the roles he most depose his name, his life story, his face, after those of de Gaulle. He won this, the greatest stake of his life. It is true that whatever the quality of the men who succeed him in the Elysée Palace. they will be less powerful than François Mitterrand. He was the last of the absolute presidents and the first to organise a relativisation of the power of the French pre dency, thanks to the multipli-cation of instances of regula-

tion, decentralisation and

development of European and worldwide decision-making

centres. That is the paradox of his life. He laid the founda-

tion stones of the modernisa-

tion of French politics, yet he

did not quite reinvent them.



Plane 'shot down in failed Libyan coup'

TALY'S former president tacking aircraft and a full-francesco Cossiga is due scale battle ensued, with to appear next week before French fighter planes from a a parliamentary commission investigating the crash at Ustica on June 27 1990 of an Itavia DC-9 flying from Bologna to Palermo.

The cause of the crash remains a mystery after 15 years of investigations hamwitnesses and the destruction of evidence, such as air traffic control radar readings.

The parliamentary commis-sion has uncovered new information from the personal archives of Demetrio Cogliandro, former head of Italy's secret service, which claims the aircraft was downed as the result of a botched attempt to kill Libya's Colonel Gadafy, who was flying through the area. The files claim the DC-9 flew into the crossfire of a battle be-tween French fighter jets and Col Gadafy's MIGs; 89 people died when a French air to air missile hit it.

A number of "fake" Libyan MIGs were supposedly at-tempting to shoot down Gaddaty's aircraft in what was intended to appear as an internal military coup. But the MIG-23s escorting the Libyan leader engaged the at-

nearby aircraft carrier, supported by American P3 Orion radar surveillance aircraft. joining in.

It appears that a Libyan MIG was downed. Italy, under pressure from her allies, was left to conceal the real canses

Mr Cossiga was transport minister at the time and is said to have been party to a government cover-up. Corriere della Sera

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El Prado's art buyers paint themselves into an over-priced corner

ELMUNDO

Ruben Amon in Madrid

PAIN'S most famous art museum, El Prado, has gone on a spree buying fake or "mediocre" paintings for which it has no

ternational Foundation for the Protection and Distribution of Art. Investigators claim a com-

mission of buyers appointed by the museum's patrons has misspent a legacy of some 8000 million pesetas paintings for which it has no use, an investigation alleges.

The art gallery in Madrid has squandered around 2000 million pesetas (£10.8 million) on paintings worth a squandered worth a left by a wealthy lawyer and "acquiring several works of laescusa, who died in 1991.

El Prado's director José of art, which the patrons judge most interesting, of there was no evidence that square for sale abroad".

prices. According to the report, however, the buyers not only made routine errors of judgment, but dis-regarded the last wishes of Villaescusa who requested With a quarter of the leg-acy El Prado bought more than 100 paintings between private collections. Only two were bought at auctions abroad, for 634 million pe-

"Very mediocre paintings have been bought at an ex-traordinary price. El Prado does not need most of the paintings," said Matias Diaz Padron, a world authority on Spanish painters and one of the Prado old-guard.

He spotted the inclusion of | by the 18th century still life forgeries in a major exhbi-tion of the Spanish painter, Diego Velazquez at El Prado which is home to almost all the painter's works. Earlier this week his portrait of 17th century Pope Innocent X went on show at the gal-lery — an addition that is expected to draw thousands of

new visitors.

One of the paintings that has raised questions about the competence of the buyers' commission is a work

Caza, hortalizas fruta. Sothebys says the most fetched by a work by him at auction was 4,8 million pesetas for Sagrada Familia con San Juanito in February 1993. Some purchases by the commission have aroused suspicion that individuals have benefited from what appears at best an ill-ad-

painter Juan Sanchéz Cotán. El Prado spent 450 million

Just pay a 5% deposit and a new gas central heating system or replacement boiler could be yours right now. You'll pay nothing more for 6 months. All systems



Karoly Grosz

Leading Hungary into the market

ney aged 65, only at the apex of power in Hun-gary, first as Prime Minister and then as Communist Party office dramatically illustrated the explosive combustion caused when a one-party po-litical system tries to convert out to be less adroit at ma-

described as the Hungarian Sorbachev, and although here was one major point of imiliarity between them, the collapse of communism took described as the Hungarian Gorbachev, and although there was one major point of similarity between them, the collapse of communism took place in Hungary in different conditions from the way it fell apart in the Soviet Union. The Hungarian case, unlike the Soviet one, was a model where the transition to a capi-talist system started well before the green light was given for political pluralism.

What made Grosz look and sound a bit like Gorbachev was his comparative youth for an east European leader. He was 58 when he became the party's general secretary. succeeding Janos Kadar who had served for more than 30 years. This, inevitably, gave him an image of dynamism and energy. But whereas Gorbachev was a unique figure in the top reaches of the Soviet hierarchy, the lone senior tient generation of reformers

He was surrounded by other men who wanted a major overhaul of the Hun-garian system. At the same and then as Communist Party leader, but his brief time in office dramatically illustrated rial and intellectual elite was far stronger than in the noeuvring to stay in power than his fellow communist work cannot remain, and those who promote the self less willing to accommodate the new political forces which were emerging outside

> a radical printer who had joined the then illegal Communist Party and was imprisoned for organising strikes trade and politics, and joined the party after the second world war. He switched to a successful career as an apparatchik, becoming party sec-retary of Hungarian radio and television at 31 and later heading the Central Committee's department of agitation and propaganda.

as "his leaning towards authoritarian methods".

He then appeared to fall out of favour with Janos Kadar and was sent to run the party organisation in his hometown of Miskolc. But in 1984 he was brought back to Budapest to take the key job of heading

By then Hungary had al-ready started on the road to a market economy. Hungarians were able to form private companies and commercial banks had come into being. Although these moves allowed for private initiative, they did not affect the core of was open to international pressure. The slump in the world economy as well as the

country.
In order to cut the budget deficit and service the interna-tional debt, Grosz launched an austerity programme which slashed subsidies to loss-mak-ing industries, made thou-sands redundant, and imposed the first income fax and VAT in the communist world.

To combat popular dissatis-faction, Grosz and the other reformers responded to pressures for political liberalisa-tion. They increased the powers of parliament, and accepted the right of citizens to organise politically outside the framework of the Communist Party. This was some months before Gorbachev launched such reforms in the Soviet Union.

Although the veteran party leader, Janos Kadar, tried to resist the changes, he had become isolated and his health was failing. Grosz succaeded him as party leader in May 1988 in a purge which also saw the removal of eight

AROLY Grosz's sense that change was capital. Three years later he of the Politburo's 13 members and the cancer of the kid-commonplace. Capital Three years later he of the Politburo's 13 members. By then Hungary had allowed was to produce his own undowas to produce his own undo-ing, Grosz was forced to ing, Grosz was forced to promise that he would not hold down the post of Prime Minister for more than a few more months. Hanging on to

the two top jobs did not sit
well with the aim of separating the party from the state.
With the pace of factional
activity within the party increasing, and with new noncommunist parties coming on communist parties coming on to the scene. Grosz was un-able to ride the tiger. In June 1989, he was forced to cede his rise in Soviet energy prices caused a severe balance of payments crisis, and Hungary had the highest per capita debt of any eastern European control to a presidium which included three men more competent than he, Rezso Nvers who had championed market economic reforms since the mid-1960s, Miklos Nemeth, an efficient technocrat who had succeeded him as Prime Minister, and Imre Pozsgay who advocated multi-

party democracy. A constitutional change was under way to create the post of president, symbolising the sidelining of the Socialist Workers' Party (as the com-munists were called). The presidium collapsed after four months and Grosz was left without a role when the party's reformist wing changed the name of the party and re-founded it on

Grosz had been the symbol of transition, but he was never its real substance.

social-democratic lines.

Karoly Grosz, politician, born

Seton Lloyd

A long interval in Iraq

archaeologist and emeritus professor at the Institute of Archaeology. University of London, who has died aged 92, was the last survivor of a eneration that had established the special procedures necessary for excavating an-cient Near Eastern mounds.

children, was born into a familv which had Quaker and cedents and was connected with Lloyds Bank (his grand-father had been a director) rector of a pharmaceutical company, was a "shadowy" figure who became stone deal during his honeymoon so that relationships with his chil-dren were difficult. Seton's mother was from a military

ot down in

yan coup'

family and he adored her. He grew up in Edgbaston, Birmingham, survived polio when he was nine, and went to school at Uppingham, studied at the Architectural Association in London and spent two years as Sir Edwyn Lutyens's assistant before setting up a small, private architectural practice with two friends in 1928. That same year one of his partners got engaged to be married and was not, therefore, in a position to take up the post of architect on an archaeological excavation in Egypt. Seton

went instead. Thus began the "profes-sional transformation" which was to produce one of this century's great field archaeologists. The site was Tall el-Amarna, the one-generation capital of the heretic Pharaoh Akhenaten in the 14th cen-tury BC. The director, Henri Frankfort, engaged Seton for his next venture on behalf of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, namely the excavation of a series of sites in the Diyala region north-east of Baghdad.

These excavations pro-

duced the framework for the previously little-known Early Dynastic Period (3000-2300BC) in Mesopotamia and perfected joined John Garstang, then eral seasons excavating a seasons excavating a excavating a prehistoric Bronze Age city at Beycesularchaeologist, born May 30, brick walls which had first mound outside Mersin on the tan in western Turkey. He 1902; died January 7, 1996



Archaeologist, Seton Lloyd

been developed by the Germans. The main building material in the Near East is unbaked mud brick which cannot be re-used, and the paucity of wood means that when a new house is built, beams, jambs and lintels are removed for re-use, the house is flattened and the new building is constructed on the remains of its predecessor. Over the centuries this practice results in the formation of huge and distinctive ruin mounds, the excavation of which produces a series of problems peculiar to Near Eastern archaeology.

These problems were later addressed by Seton in lec-tures published as Mounds Of The Near East (1963). Seton also worked briefly at the Assyrian site of Khorsabad, north of Mosul and discovered the huge stone aqueduct built by Sennacherib about 700BC to bring water to his capital at Nineveh (Senna-cherib's Aqueduct At Jerwan, with T Jacobsen, 1935). In all

on Sumerian Sites (1936).

south coast of Turkey. In between he carried out a survey in the Sinjar district of northern Iraq, which identified a large number of sites, many of which bave since been excavated by others. His appointment in 1939 to the post of adviser to the Directorate General of Antiquities in Iraq led to his spending much of the war in Beghdad and Jerusalem. He was res- of sites, pottery and artefacts, huge winged, human-headed bulls from Khorsabad to the plan come alive, and his wellordered lectures. site of the museum in Bagh-Museum (since moved to new premises), and for undertaking a series of excavations with Iraqi colleagues at sites carefully selected to fill crucial gaps in the archaeologi-cal record of ancient Mesopo-tamia: 'Uqair, Hassun, Tell Harmal and Eridu. A genera-

tion of young Iraqis were initiated in the techniques of excavation which had been developed in the Diyala.

Rivers (1943) and Foundations

In The Dust (1947), which have been frequently re-

issued. His beautiful South Gate house in Baghdad (now a shop and craft centre), became a meeting place for Iraqis and foreigners alike. Visitors included, in 1943, Ulrica Hyde, known as Hydie (accompanied by two tame chameleons named Sodom and Gomorrah); they were married in Cairo in 1944. In 1948, Seton accepted the

post of first director of the newly established British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara Little was known of mg as an architect was invaluable for planning the buildings and recording the antiquities.

The failure of a brief first marriage provided the stimut. marriage provided the stimulus for the first of many books
aimed at the general reader.
Mesopotamia — Excavations
Mesopotamia — Excavations
Mesopotamia — Excavations
Mesopotamia — Excavations In 1937 and 1939 Seton | bour at Alanya and spent sev-

and Hydie travelled extensively throughout Turkey and welcomed many to the Institute, including myself for whom the experience led to a career in archaeology. He retired as director in 1961.

He and Hydie spent much time and love on Woolstone Lodge, their beautiful house just below the Uffington White Horse, where he could times, fishing and shooting. In 1962, he succeeded Max Mallowan as Professor of Western Asiatic Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, part of London Universi-ty. Here many of us benefited from his first-hand knowledge

is ability to make

Seton also continued to reports on his excavations, contributing articles to learned journals and writing book reviews. To the bibliography published in the Fest schrift volume of the journal Iraq in 1982, several volumes can be added, including Eridu (1981 with F Safar and MA Mustafa) and Ancient Turkey

Seton's career did not go He also wrote two of his unrecognised. He was most successful books: Twin awarded an OBE in 1949, and a CBE in 1957. He became a Fellow of the British Academy in 1955 and was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He received the Lawrence of Arabia Memorial Medal in 1971 and the Gertrude Bell Memorial Medal in 1979. In 1960 he received an Honorary MA from Edinburgh University, was made Emeritus Professor upon his retirement, and had Festschrifts dedi-

cated to him.

He has passed on his knowledge to several generations of archaeologists now working they came to the city in all over the world and, made Near Eastern archaeology come alive. He called his memoirs The Interval - a reference to Santayana: "There is no cure for birth and death but to enjoy the interval." He made full use of that interval.

Joyce McCartan



write for the general reader as well as completing all the Peacemaker...Joyce McCartan with Hillary Clinton who she met in 1995

Tea and sympathy

aged 66, met Hilla-ry Clinton she gave the first lady a new phrase. "I'm a family feminist," she told Hillary Clinton over a mug of tea at her women's drop-in centre on Belfast's Ormeau Road. "I think I'll use that, I'm one of those too," came the reply.

Recognition came near the end of a hard life for McCartan, a veteran women's and human rights campaigner who had lost 14 members of her extended family in Northern Ireland's political

search of work and a better life, but when the Troubles began her name became a byword for grief as the McCartan family earned the appalling distinction of losing the greatest number of family members to terrorist violence.

A mother of eight children, the greatest pain of all came when her 17-year-old son Gary was shot dead by the loyalist paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force on the doorstep of the family home in

HEN Joyce McCar | gunshots from the women's | holding a large, stainless-steel tan, who has died | centre which was only a few | teapor that Joyce had given streets away. By the time of her son's

many non-sectarian campaigns to improve life for the working class of Belfast. Joyce organised her first demonstration, against then-education minister Margaret Thatcher's decision to stop free milk in schools. She was

thrown out of Belfast City Hall for bringing a cow to demonstrate her point. That was the beginning of the Women's Information Network, an organisation which across Northern Ireland.

her anti-sectarianism and campaigns for what she called the bread and butter issues of health and education. The culmination of her campaigning was when Mrs Clinton visited the Lamp

lighter, a fish and chip shop and meeting place for Protes-tant and Catholic women which she founded. "There's a lot of healing to be done on both sides. And I think it's up to the women on the ground to achieve that," she told Mrs Clinton. "It'll take women to bring men to their senses here in Northern Ireland." 1987. Joyce heard the The next day in Dublin -

her from the cafe - just because she had admired it -Mrs Clinton spoke of the con-tribution McCartan had made to the IRA and loyalist ceasefires.

Joyce was awarded an MBE in 1992 and an honorary doctorate from the Queen's University in Belfast last year. Upon receiving it, she ex-pressed surprise that a wom-an who left school at the age of 14 should be given such an award. "I learned everything I know from experience. It's a good teacher."

The MBE brought criticism from some quarters within her nationalist neighbourhood on the Lower Ormeau Road in south Belfast. But her acceptance was typical for a woman who shunned tribal politics in favour of building common cause, particularly between Protestant and

Catholic women.
Her autobiography, A Battler All My Life, was published last year. She leaves her husband, Seamus, and seven children.

Joyce McCartan, peace campaigner, born November 1929; died January 8, 1996

Abram Sterne writes: It was morally repugnant, and typical of current journalism to read in your obtuary of Yahya Ayyash (January 8), an article lauding the technological skills and abilities of a man (a terrorist) who enjoyed killing men, women and chil-dren on buses in Israel. I find it hard to imagine that any newspaper would print an obituary of IRA bombers assessingted by the Eritich assassinated by the British government. This makes me wonder what the difference is in this particular instance.

Birthdavs

Sir Walter Bodmer, FRS, geneticist, director-general, Impe-rial Cancer Research Fund, 60; Eddie Cheever, racing driver, 38; Prof Rodney Eatock Taylor, mechanical engineer, 52; Ann Firbank, actress, 63; Derek Hammond-Stroud, baritone, 70; Dorothy Malone, actress, 71; Alan Protheroe, journalist and broadcaster, 62; Max Roach, jazz drummer, composer, 71; Prof Elizabeth Robson, geneticist, 68; Anton Rodgers, actor, 63; Tony Soper, natural history film di-rector, 57; Rod Stewart, rock singer, 51; Valerie Strachan, chairman, HM Customs and

Yesterday's Birthdays

Mai Derek Allhusen, Olympic equestrian, 82; Joan Baez, singer, 55; Sir Rudolf Bing, founder of the Edin-burgh Festival, 93; Ken Brown, golfer, 28; Dorothy Davies, secretary general, In-ternational Federation of University Women, 54; Clive Dunn, actor and comedian, 74; Graham Fletcher, showjumper, 45; Crystal Gayle, singer, 45; Terry Hands, theatre and opera director, 55; David Holbrook, author, 73; Ray Houghton, footballer, 34; Prof Sir Alec Jeffreys, geneticist, 48; Simon Jervis, historic buildings secretary, the National Trust, 53; Her bert Lom, actor, 79; Michael Nicholson, broadcaster, 59; Jimmy Page, rock guitarist, 52; Joely Richardson, actress, 31; David Smith, cricketer, 40; Freddie Starr, comedian, 52; Scott Walker, singer, 53; Geoffrey Wragg. raceborse trainer, 66; St nah York, actress, 54.

Death Notices

BROOKER, Kennetts On January peacetuily in facepital beloved in Jean and special father and grean black associations father and grean

In Memoriam

Engagements

othing to pay for 6 month

are designed with you and fitted by experts. All systems come with a free 1 year service contract. Now, isn't that a turn up? For details call 0345 754 754:

why I killed

DUNCAN CAMPBELL (Most foul, January 3) suggests that I was motivated by "homophobic" in that I

killed gay men because they were gay. Before, during and after my offences I was (and

am) decidedly gay and have never been ashamed of that. In fact, I was then one of the

few civil servants not in the sexual closet.

The drive and motivation

associated with my actions

came from a perverse need to

men and not necessarily gay young men. In fact, a sizeable

portion of those 12 who died

I take responsibility for my offences and, deservedly,

serve out an indeterminate

I am not proud to be a mur-derer but I am proud to be

Whitemoor Prison, Longhill Road, March, Cambridgeshire PE15 0PR.

BFI panned

POS COWARD is quite right in her assessment of the British Film Institute

(Comment page, January 8; Letters, January 9). But it

never was set up as a "demo-cratic" institution and has,

over the years, shown consid-

erable hostility to any moves

to make it one. Like other quangos, the BFI is into em-

pire-building. Having entered

the commercial sector as film

distributors, it virtually dic-

tates regional film theatres'
"independent" programming,
since it also controls their

Independent film distribu-tors are also at its mercy since they need their "art house" Screens in order to

find a public. Thus the Or-

wellian reasoning that, with-out the BFL "alternative"

films would have no outlets in the UK. This very situation, which they have craftily cre-

ated, is annually trotted out

to persuade the Government of the day to continue paying

them £17m a year from tax-

perilous annual funding.

The Guardian

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Taking to the lifeboats

But political fashions change. So do allegiances

you would think that Tony Blair was now officially prime minister-in-waiting, that John Major was a total lame duck premier and that the next election has already all but taken place. Emma Nicholson's defection to the Liberal Democrats, which was made flesh on the opposition benches for the first time yesterday, has triggered an almost universal sense that the game is up for Mr Major and his party. After long years of disbelief and caution about Labour's chances, the question now is not whether but when Mr Blair will take over. The political class has climbed down off the fence and decided with one voice that the Thatcher-Major years are general election.

The talk at Westminster is of a washed-up parliamentary session, fresh byelections and a rout in the May local elections. On every deck the lifeboats are being prepared as the ship goes down. Conservative MPs are quitting in droves. Michael Portillo is no longer an irritant to the prime minister but a man already campaigning for the leadership of the party after Mr Major's inevitable retirement. Yesterday's announcement that Mr Major's press secretary is baling out to become ambassador to Germany raised barely an eyebrow; the assumption is merely that he is getting out while the going is good. Leave aside whether all of this is good for politics. Just concentrate on whether it is good politics at all. Until last autumn the political class adopted a prudent tone when assessing the Gov-ernment's prospects. They did so because the Conservatives were proven election winners, because Mr Major had seen off his challengers, because the Conservatives still had a majority

TO JUDGE by the mood around the economic indicators looked good for the House of Commons yesterday afternoon | Government, because Labour still had a lot of convincing to do on economic policy and - not least - because this all added up to the received wisdom. Suddenly, with Miss Nicholson's defection, all that has changed. Arguments which were widely and doggedly advanced in Mr Major's favour before the autumn are no longer heard, let alone taken seriously. It is no longer fashionable to see the Conservatives as a serious party, a formidable electoral machine or a potential government, or even to take seriously the reasons why they might — just might — manage to

To be sceptical about the new dismissive wisdom towards the Conservatives is neither perverse nor faint-hearted. Conservative defections, inevitable No one denies that they are unpopular Tory losses in the two forthcoming or disputes most of the reasons. It is simply sensible to keep one's head and recognise that just as political fashion can change quickly, so also can political allegiance. Long leads in the opinion polls underpin much of the current confidence that Labour is home and dry. But there are signs that the lead is dropping, albeit slowly, and that Mr Major's stock gradually rising. Labour's own private polling tells a much more contingent story about the apparent national swing to Mr Blair and about popular confidence in Labour than those unadjusted headline figures might suggest. This doesn't mean that the Conservatives will succeed to turning the situation around in 1997 as they did in 1992. But it ought to be a warning that they could. The opposition parties were in buillish mood as the Commons returned yesterday. They had plenty of right to be so. But don't be cocky. The Conservatives aren't beaten yet and the election does of nearly 50 over Labour, because the | not have to take place before May 1997.

In the footsteps of Marmaduke

Sir Christopher may (even) be the right man for the job

alive at a national institution even if the party itself sinks without trace. Tempting, but wrong. Sir Christopher has a strong track record both as a tough-as-old-boots businessman turning ailing companies around and as deputy chairman of the IBA and chairman of London Weekend Television. He combines commercial and broadcasting acumen in a way no previous chairman of the BBC has even though he received unfavourable publicity when he walked away with an estimated £9 million in share options when LWT was taken over against its will by Granada last year. Labour was quite right to be angry yesterday that an appointment of such national importance carrying a five-year contract well into the next parliament should have been decided by Downing Street without consultations with the Opposition. But that doesn't mean that Tony Blair will necessarily be displeased with the appointment of a man who worked well with a coterie of high-flying executives at LWT, some of the best of them New Labour, who have mostly gone to even higher things.

He will doubtless be feared within the double-term reign of Duke Hussey, a will be keeping an eagle eye on his man widely thought within and without success in sustaining core BBC values.

IT IS tempting to dismiss Sir Christo- | the organisation to be unfitted for the pher Bland, former Conservative candi- job, but who managed with Birt to date and chairman of the Bow Group, negotiate the BBC's survival into the as a placeman slotted into the chair- post-Thatcher era. What the BBC now manship of the BBC to keep Tory values | urgently needs, and which Sir Christopher could provide, is strong business leadership to exploit the world-wide commercial potential offered by its new charter in the digital age. There are obvious dangers here in developing the BBC's new commercial services while protecting its public service obligations. But it can, and must, be done. Sir Christopher is no stranger to public service following his experience at the IBA and as chairman of Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's Hospitals. He has the advantage of doing the job which he has eyed for some time because he wants to do it and not because he needs the money. Staff at the BBC won't find him an easy boss there were large redundancies while he was at LWT - but he comes at one of the most interesting periods of the BBC's existence when it is being faced with unprecedented competition at home - including a possible 500 Murdoch channels - and big potential abroad as the global media revolution gathers pace. He will need to raise revenue for development — including forestalling a Murdoch monopoly of sport? - while ensuring that it isn't used as an excuse to reduce the licence BBC as yet another culture-bender from | fee. We wish him well in his entrepre-LWT after John Birt. He follows the neurial endeavours but, like others,

China blinks under the spotlight Justified criticism is a better tactic than a political crusade

deeply disturbing. China under Deng Xiaoping has been praised for its rapid economic progress. Chinese society is becoming more diverse and open in spite of political stagnation. But for the is likely—like so much else in China disadvantaged conditions may have got worse. The HRWA says this includes Chinese orphans, who have a low chance of survival in poorly funded and badly managed homes. The original Channel 4 programme 'The Dying Rooms" did not prove its case. This report is a thorough piece of research with convincing documentation. The statistical argument over the number who die is complex but even the lower estimates are alarming. In booming

improve their lives. The harder question is whether the

China there should be enough wealth

not just to keep the orphans alive but

HE CONDITIONS in China's or | evidence justifies the charge that the phanages, revealed by Human Chinese government, as a matter of pol-Rights Watch/Asia (HWRA), are icy, encourages "death by default" in icy, encourages "death by default" in its institutions. HRWA says the high death rates "are the result of a deliberate policy to minimise China's populato be rather less clear. Many orphans are already seriously ill or disabled when found abandoned. Chinese officials may turn a blind eye more because they cannot be bothered than as an act of policy. The practice of benign - or not so benign - neglect is not unknown elsewhere nor is child abuse confined to China.

Beijing has admitted there are problems, but otherwise has relied on stock denials and personal attacks on witnesses. It is certainly right to put China under the spotlight. But justified criticism is more likely to get results than a political crusade.



THE mess Labour has got it-self into over all-women shortlists has obscured the real problem facing everyone trying to get more women into Parliament. That is how to reconcile the principle of in-creasing women's representa-tion, which all three main parties claim to support, with the right of individual constituencies to have the widest poss-ible range of people from whom to choose their MP.

By promoting the former at the expense of the latter. Labour has demonstrated its traditional willingness to sac-rifice individual liberties for the sake of a centrally determined good. For we Liberal Democrats, the right of people in a constituency to have the best person for the job, regard-less of sex, is sacrosanct.

Rather than arguing within the party, Labour should leave the final decision to the elec-torate, and back the single-transferable-vote system. This means bigger constituencies, but more than one MP for each. This would encourage parties to put up more women, and would let voters choose between candidates of the same party, so that anybody who specifically wanted to vote for a woman could do so. And it would keep MPs in safe ing people to choose between different Conservative, Labour or Lib Dem

Diana Maddock MP. London SWIA OAA

THE 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women explicitly states (Article 4) that the "adoption of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality beween men and women shall not be considered discrimination". In seaking to make equal rights effective, rather than merely formal, the Labour Party has been following a standard of good ally, if not by UK law. David Beetham.

20 Parsonage Road, Manchester M20 9PQ.

ABOUR'S policy on all-women shortlists — as with progressive employers promoting equal opportuni-ties — was virtuous. But any half-educated personnel pro-fessional could have, and probably did, advise them that it could be legally challenged. with a high risk of it being unlawful. Besides, the policy was against the spirit of the legislation, even if technically legally defensible.

It is sad to watch Labour trains to rely on a possible

trying to rely on a possible legal loophole to avoid charges of positive discrimination. It would be better now to re-run all the "all women" selections RS Dunn. 29 Springcroft Avenue, London N2 9JH.

History lesson

BEFORE Roy Hattersley gets carried away by his own indignation at the Government's vile behaviour towards Dr Mohammed al Mas'ari (Endpiece, January 8) he might recall a similar case in the spring of 1977. His col-league Merlyn Rees, then the Labour Home Secretary, used equally specious arguments to deport the US journalists Mark Hosenball and Philip Agee, on the grounds that they were a threat to national security. The real reason was, of course, pressure from the US government. When it comes to sacrificing free speech to political expediency, Labour MPs should tread carefully. Jacob Ecclestone. NUJ, Acorn House, 314-320 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP.

All-women lists short of support What mid-life crisis?

January 8) was appropriate company for the post-Christmas blues. I and many post-50

colleagues have one small additional symptom to add.

When we were in the 20-35 age bracket and champing at the bit of opportunity, we were told to wait for dead men's shoes and until we were "old enough". Now we are 50, it's the 20-35s' turn — for the first time in our society, I think. Our problem is not growing old but the realisation that we are the first, and perhaps

never get a "turn" — ever. Robert Bracegirdle. 1 Sickleholm Drive,

WILL turn 60 in a few weeks' time, hence qualifying for an old age pension — a distinct plus. I am a teacher and, apart from four and a half years when my children were small, I worked full-time until just over three years ago, when I took voluntary redundancy.

It was undoubtedly one of the best decisions I have over

the best decisions I have ever made. I have enjoyed myself | enormously and have numerous plans for the years ahead. Managers either do not recog-Although I hope, like my nise experience or do not parents and grandparents, to wish to make relatively short-Although I hope, like my parents and grandparents, to live beyond my three score years and 10, I begin to won-der whether I shall have time to accomplish all I have in

I feel concerned for thes people who seem so obsessed with success and who see it only in terms of their jobs. They are so desperate to get to the top, and devastated when they either do not quite make it, or, having reached the summit, fail to cling on. Am I alone in thinking that it is ill-advised to allow one's

NGELA NEUSTAT- working life to take over TER'S article (Mid-life one's entire existence? Valerie Clarke. 15 Farmadine, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3HR.

> GOOD heavens! If people are beginning to feel old at 40-plus, they do need something to think of outside of themselves. Wait till they are 70-plus, when hearing, sight and memory begin to desert them, and their "get-up-and-go" really does get up and go. It's a throw-back to the dreadful "Me" syndrome — me, me, me. These people are all too young to remember dear Arthur Mee, of Children's En-cyclopaedia fame, who wrote: "If you have a headache, rush out and make yourself dizzy doing good deeds." Betty Lee.

46 Irwin Avenue. Heworth Green. York YOS 7TU.

AS ONE who is celebrating my \$2nd birthday next month, I have plenty of expe-rience of middle and old age. There are, of course, many examples of hardship: those who become unemployed in their 40s and 50s and write hundreds of letters with im-pressive CVs which are ig-

term investments in people. I

I live on my own, with the mutually appreciative com-pany of an aged cat. D H Parker. Back Lane, South Creake, Norfolk NR21 9PP. EN to 15 years ago. I too experienced the mid-life crisis of confidence and iden-

was lucky. I qualified as an accountant in 1939 and, on

retiring in 1979 at the age of

65, took a few clients with me. My wife is in a home, well

looked after, and I drive

10,000 miles a year to see her every day for at least an hour.

tity. I remember the snearing contempt of the "new blood" haby boomers. Hard luck, kids — welcome to the club. P M Murphy. 48 Peghouse Close, Stroud, Glos GL5 1UP.

portion of those 12 who died were not homosexual at all. As my social life revolved around gay pubs in central London, those at risk were any young men drinking there, irrespective of their own personal orientation.

I take responsibility for my WAS told in 1938: "Today's cream is tomorrow's sour milk." It is very true. I was born in 1921 and I have never life sentence for multiple murder. However, I do not be-lieve that Duncan Campbell is been the "cream". L Clarke. justified in compounding the felony by throwing in homophobia as a motive.

41 Albany Road, Northampton NN1 5LZ.

YOUR G2 cover says: "How to survive something more devastating than drink, drugs and divorce. Middle drugs and divorce"? Suzanne Perkins. 20 Gorst Road



The burning issue along the corridors of Whitehall

FEAR that Ian Bancroft and tion of setting rules and moni-later correspondents have toring them into an Office of not it wrong to see the Govgot it wrong to see the Gov-Recruitment and Assessment Services Agency (RAS) as a threat to the long-standing Civil Service policy of fair and open competition on merit for all posts (Comment page, December 20; Letters, December 21-January 6).

That policy, of course, remains. The confusion is between the maintenance of this policy, which of course every-body stands by, and how the actual job of recruitment is The excellent study, Res-carried out. It was never, at ponsibilities for Recruitment least not for many many years, the case that the Civil Service Commission itself carried out all recruitment; it set down the rules.

In 1991, when I was Second Permanent Secretary in the Cabinet Office, we recognised | Commissioners, which will of this by splitting off the func-

311 times, spread over 14

had to be abandoned for a bad

line or other faults. This is a

substantial tribute to the sys-

tem, whatever one may think

of modern technology and

THE BBC World Service

(Letters, December 1 & 30,

January 2 & 8) is clearly too

dangerous for us to hear, we

5.50 am, although it is the

BBC's only radio channel

Not one of these broad

stations in 1995.

Max Nottingham

19 St Faith's Street,

Lincoln, Lines LN1 1QJ.

It's good to talk (and talk and talk)

HAVE just set a new radio | ers. This failure to allow a do-

phone-in record: appearing mestic audience to develop
311 times, spread over 14 also removes much of the po-

are only allowed to listen to it nationwide between I am and Please include a full postal

paid for by general taxation letters. We regret we cannot rather than TV licence pay-

decimation.

ernment's proposal to sell the sioners, headed by a First Civil Service Commissioner appointed by the Queen, and the RAS, which was the Government's in-house recruit ment agency offering, along with a lot of other people, recruitment services within the Commissioners' rules. Even at that point about 80 per cent of actual Civil Service recruitment was carried out outside RAS; now I be-lieve it is nearly 100 per cent.

to the Civil Service, published by the Cabinet Office in 1994, makes it clear all Civil Service recruitment will con-tinue to be carried out under rules and monitoring laid down by the Civil Service

litical sting that would other

wise accompany the Service's

I have recently made the happy discovery of World Ser-

vice evening broadcasts at 4MHz on short wave, which

leave me amazed at the im-

mense flow of important news

from BBC correspondents all

over the world, of which but a

trickle ever reaches us on do

address and daytime telepho

number, even in e-malled

mestic broadcasts.

Oliver Tickell.

Oxford OX4 4BL.

opportunity and appointment on merit. A sale of RAS would not affect this. There is a separate ques-tion as to whether the Government, as an employer of half a million people or there-

effective and efficient in-house provider which can, among other things, benchmark the competition and keep it up to the mark, but that is a different point. Sir Peter Kemp. London SE26 60.J.

payers' money. 2 Norwood Road, Sheffield S5 8BD.

A Country Diary

on a mirror of mud beneath flat reed beds. From Cotchele to Halton Quay, an expanse of reeds fringes the river, sepa-rated from Etheric Ma'sh by a flood defence bank. Fluffy brown plumes are silvered against the light and stagnant water glints between tall blonde reed stems. Water draining from the grassy marsh runs under the bank and through narrow mud channels to the ebbing Tamar. Across the river, beyond the cold shadow of Braunder Wood, black cattle range over a banky field while beside South Ward Farm, with its Dutch-style gabled roof, a pile of recently cut reddish logs is the remains of one of the oldest and biggest Bullion cherry trees which were once so prolific in the valley. In contrast to Devon's west-facing pasture, still with frosty patches, and cultivated with down-hill strips of leeks, cabbage, newly turned earth, strawed-

TAMAR VALLEY: Towards | up dormant rhubarb and neat low tide morning sun reflects lines of cloches, stacked and ready for placing over adja-cent strawberry rows. Al-though eucalyptus is now a favourite foliage for the cutflower trade, new variegated pittisporum bushes are planted in a grove on steepest land beside the precipitous quarry wood. Further down-river, beyond Cotebele Estate. market-gardens peter out. On one of the largest farms, hedges were buildozed in the 1960s and the huge, bare enclosure is grazed by Suffolk sheep also roaming over small fields with neglected, collapsed hedges around Greenbank, intensively culti-vated up to 20 years ago as a separate holding on the Pen-tillie Estate. Horticulture below Boetheric is a remnant of a once widespread industry. Early this century, vast quantities of fruit were produced for upcountry and Plymouth markets with surplus used in steep sheltered slopes on the cornish side are very warn of which was at Woodlands Farm on fertile ground just above the Ma'sh. VIRGINIA SPIERS

wiay danuary to 1996

Dennis Nilsen:

Matthew Norman

today on the mental state of the Defence Secretary. It has been offi-cially confirmed that Polly Portillo has a state of the polly Portillo has amnesia: in ac-cusing Emma Nicholson of disloyalty to John Major, for example, he had zero recollection of the 40 phone lines he had installed during last summer's leader-ship election. That's the bad news. The good news is that he is not, as first suspected, afflicted by a more serious condition. When on Mon-day he declared himself the victim of "a witch hunt" by his own Tory colleagues psychiatrists assumed he was in the grip of persecu-tion mania. However, the country's foremost authority on paranola, Professor Faity Soames, has dis-missed this, and indeed tells Boris the Jackal Johnson that his boss is a saint "He's a very, very big man [from Fatty, high praise in-deed], and that's a fact. When I made a cock-up about something, he was solid. He's a good egg. I say: sod the lot of them. Portillo contra mundum. Whoo-pee." Taken with this part-ing "whoopee", Fatty's adroit use of the coded term "sod the lot of them" clinches it: Polly isn't paranold at all, and everyone really is out to get him. What a tremendous relief.

R GRAHAM Kelly: a correction. Conrary to yesterday's report, it appears that the FA chief executive's joke about enlarging football goals, made last April 1 on BBC1, was not his first. It is now believed that he made one in a speech at a football fanzine award ceremony three years ago, and that it went down very well. My apologies to Mr Kelly for any distress caused. News of further sightings of escapees from Mr Kelly's comedic repertoirs will be gratefully received.

ONDAY night's Panorama, on the dan-gers of Dozy Dor-relf's new safe drinking limits, has caused huge merriment among the staff of the liver unit at King's College Hospital in London. They were visible in the background while Professor David Williams, a world-renowned specialist, issued apocalyptic warnings about the dangers of even moderate drinking, holding up some perforated scierotic livers to illustrate the point, It is perhaps as well, then, that the profes-sor did not stay the course at the liver unit's Christmas that it began with a champagne reception, continued with shout two hottles of wine per head over dinner, and ended with lashings of port. The party then went upstairs to the boardroom, where staff pulled down the Christmas tree before setting off fire alarms. It is rumoured, meanwhile, that the evening ended when a couple were caught in flagrante delicto in the hospital chapel.

MONG the many gifts of Paul Dacre, the Daily Mail's mannerly editor, is the ability to relax (often, of course, by back until he draws blood) in the face of great pressure. Indeed, when abroad on holiday, he rerely rings the office more than four times a day. It is significant, then, that on last week's jaunt to Madeira, the number rose to 20, as he strove to keep tabs on the continuing exodus from his title: two reporters were talking of moving to the Daily Express. Happily, though, Mr Dacre has managed to keep them. Whether this is due to the editor's personal charm, or to the massive hikes that have taken the salaries of Paul Harris and Edward Verity to £70,000 a year, is a matter for

HE Sun reports that Joyce Ingills, who has "brought sunshine" into the life of Authony Hopkins, also had an affair once with Tom Jones doubt flattened some of the green, green grass of home). Leading psychiatrists — the same ones, oddly enough, who spoke to me about Polly Portillo — believe that Miss Ingills's fetish is harmless, but appeal to her to seek help should she develop any plans for Harry Secombe.



Keep right on for the piggy-back off the Americans of the ends of the party

Commentary

Will Hutton

RITAIN as a Greet
Power with global interests and global security concerns is an
image that dies hard. Indeed,
for the Eurosceptics inside the
Conservative Party it is not
dying at all it requires not dying at all; it remains pre-cisely the correct course for the country and party alike. The strategy may require a litde recasting to accommodate Britain's economic realities — but this, rather than more defence- and foreign-policy inte-gration in Europe, is the way orward.
Michael Portillo's visit to

Japan over the last four days — with his pledge of more defence co-operation between the Japanese and British, with British offering to train Japanese troops for peace-keeping - is thus no journeyman visit in the Defence Secretary's diary. Like Foreign Secretary Mal-

tive Party's redefinition of Britain's security and foreign policy as the party sways to the barely concealed national-Portillo will want to dress up

his speechifying as not alter

ing Britain's traditional defence posture in any way, more with Japan need not mean less with anybody else. Indeed, so cash constrained has Britain's defence operation become, that there was little hint of joint exercises or any of the other paraphernalia of defence cooperation. Yet for a largely symbolic gesture, the Defence Secretary has risked the wrath of British veterans of the second world war with Japan - one of the most easily anticipated reactions in British politics — in order to main-tain his stock with the Euros ceptic right as the globalist rather than the European. The global power must construct a dobal network of defence cooperation between sovereign nation states — and Europe's efforts to develop the Common Security and Foreign Policy can go hang. "We are," he de-clared, "a global trading. global investing, globally consclous nation."

Britain's relationship with Japan is important; and it is true that some 19 per cent of Britain's exports and somecolm Rifkind's grandlose float-ing of a European/North what less of our overseas America free-trade area, it rep direct investment is in Asia,

ents part of the Conserva- | including Australasia. But the brutal economic, political and diplomatic realities are that the fulcrum around which Britain's interests turn remain in Europe and North America. Britain would not go to war in Vietnam in the 1960s; 30 years later there are no interests in Asia for which a British gov-eroment could countenance the death of a single British grenadiar—except perhaps in some generalised world conflict. To even hint at anything

different is folly.

Where Portillo was right in his Tokyo speech was to argue that it is vital to Asia, and Europe's security interests, that the IIS manifestations. that the US remain committed that the US remain communion to the security of both regions. It is not merely that, as events in Bosnia underlined, even regional powers like Britain and France can make little progress in their own sphere of influence without the diplo-matic weight of the US. The reality of current military technology is that only a super power can afford the panoph of spy satellites, military intel-ligence, capacity to move a critical mass of troops and ar-mour internationally, and so on, that makes even a regional security posture credible. Without the US in Europe, the European security effort would be seriously disabled; the truth is that the British

and French, the continent's chief military powers, have to

Given this necessity, you might suppose that the British Defence Secretary would be in-terested in making the kind of symbolic gesture that would encourage the US - but the difficulty is that the kind of costure the Americans would appreciate does not play any-thing like so well with the Eurosceptic faction as posturing in Tokyo. For as the ÚS Amba dor to the European Union, Stuart Eizenstat, made clear in his Newcastle speech last sum-mer, the US "supports the European integration move-ment wholeheartedly and is "an active champion of Euro-pean integration". The Ameri-cans would like a strongly pro-Buropean government in

By putting career and party faction before the national interest Portillo was bound to evoke a strong reaction

London committed to building a European defence effort; not a government riding on Ameri can cost-mis poncing about with Japanese security collaboration.

This is scarcely surprising The US stock of direct invest ment in Europe is vast; and the more capacity Europe has to organise and police its own aforganise and ponce as own ar-fairs, the less American presi-dents will have to run the gauntlet of an increasingly iso-lationist Congress in calling for spending to defend Europe. Accordingly the US has stood benignly by and allowed the the European Union's sole political voice biside Nato.

The military functions of Nato would remain as they are — but its political organisation would change substantially. Membership of the WEU would have to be restricted to EU members, hardly difficult as no non-EU states are in it but Austria, Denmark, Spain, Finland and Ireland would have to join up to the EU's security wing. This is hardly a revolutionary idea, and the result would be to equip Britain and Europe with a capacity to organise security policy in the Mediterranean, Baltic, Bal icans and eastern Europe with more coherence than they do now. European security would be enhanced; and Britain's long-run interests better

served.
The political trouble is that this is the policy advocated by those the Eurosceptics portray as selling Britain's interests short — like the Europhiles at the Federal Trust who recom-mend just this policy in their recent paper The Security of the Union. It would require a symbolic speech, not in Tokyo about globalism but in Brussels urging a bigger role for the WEU — anathema to every Eurosceptic and rightwing newspaper in the land.

Portillo complains that he is the object of a plot by leftwing Conservatives to damage him politically. He should not be surprised. A politician who so palpably puts his career and party faction before the national interest is bound to evoke a strong reaction. The wonder is that it has taken so long for the rest of his party to

within Nato; there is no doubt they would be happy for the Europeans to build up the WEU so it came to represent the Purpose of the Purpose o



David McKie

PEW days ago he was only "a creep" (Lord Hill-Norton). Since then he has been promoted: according to the control of the contro ing to Emma Nicholson yes-terday, Michael Portillo is now a country creep. Serves him right, no doubt, for suggesting the party would be better off without her and her Euro-federalism. Even so: since, despite the Prime Minister's moving appeal for calm, the Tories' uncivil war is set to continue, could we. haps be treated in future to a igher class of calumny?

Perhaps the trouble is that we're spoiled. We read what Disraeli said about Gladstone (and, rather less often, what Gladstone said of Disraeli) and tend to assume that the insults crackled like that all the time. But several fallow years and bruising debates may have passed between "s sophisticated rhetorician intoxicated with the exuberance of his own verbosity" and my favourite slur of all: "he has not a single redeeming

It seems to be a rule of the game that those who dish out the best insults tend to attract them as well. ("He is a self-made man and worships his creator" — John Bright on Disraeli.) Churchill, himself a popular target, compared MacDonald to "the Boneless MacDonald to "the Boneless
Wonder" — a freak in a Barnum circus to which he'd
been taken as a child — and
called Attlee "a sheep in
sheep's clothing". Both
promptly entered the language. That's another rule: the target needs to be somefore they get up, do not know what they are going to say, and when they are speaking, do not know what they are saying and when they have sat down, do not know, what they have said." But no one remembers that, because no one remembers the victim, Lord Charles Beresford.

One problem with the Comduced in response to an attack by Sir Geoffrey Howe: "Like being savaged by a dead sheep." But that, by Denis Healey's standards, was affectionate. There was much less (Hamish Hamilton); The Book Of Political Quotes, by Jonathon

of privilege, also known as Rhoda the Rhino, a bargain basement Boadicaea, Virago Intacta, a Upas Tree in whose Intacta, a Upas Tree in whose shade everything dies, and Attila the Hen. Not all of these were necessarily original. Matthew Parris (see below) attributes Attila the Hen to Clement Freud. Healey also invoked the Upas, as did Roy Jenkins, to describe David Owen. Healey further said of Owen: "The good fairy gave the young doctor almost everything: thick dark locks, matinée idol features, a lightning intellect. Unfortunately, the bad fairy also made him a the bad fairy also made him a shit." Not, I think, the kind of language you'd get from Roy Jenkins.

Politicians like you to think that lines like these simply come to them, even while they are speaking. Some do: many others don't. ("Winston has devoted the best years of his life to preparing his impromptu speeches" — FE Smith.) Yet some famous lines cannot have been re-cooked. Someone said in the presence of Ernest Bevin that Herbert Morrison was his own worst enemy. "Not while I'm alive, he ain't." said Bevin. Ted Heath, who is often wittier than the outside world sus-pects, being asked why he thought Margaret Thatcher disliked him so, replied: "I am not a doctor." I once heard Jeremy Thorpe destroy a lu-gubrious speech made by an Ulster Unionist in a suit two sizes two large for him by ask-ing in piercing tones as he lumbered into his peroration: "I say — who's this fellow's tailor?" Another rule of the game: an impromptu word straight from the heart scores more than even the brightest sally dreamed up a few hours before in the bath. Tony Banks, the Labour backbencher, is nowadays the best quick lip in the business.

well turned. Asquith, said Leo Amery, had "a season ticket on the line of least resis-tance". Many insults were hurled at Norman Tebbit, but the target needs to be someone that people have heard of.
"He can best be described."
Churchill said of a critic, "as polecat". That "semi", with its hint at clinical measurements. abuse, is what gives the line its bite. Also the way that it strikes at a general percep-tion, even on the target's own side. That was what made Denis Healey so effective a scourge of Thatcher. There were those on the Donie switched on the insult mamons today is that it has recently lost a master vituperator and shows no sign of replacing him. The most celebrated insult of modern times is probably the one he produced in response to an attack.

Switchen would begin to twitch, then to giggle, then — risking the lady's wrath — to laugh out loud. And when he had got them is probably the one he produced in response to an attack.

But it also helps if a line is

tionate. There was much less | Political Quotes, by Jonathon warmth for the La Pasionaria | Green (Angus and Robertson)



It is time the left dropped its knee-jerk opposition to selective schooling, argues Stephen Pollard; as Gillian Shephard has realised, parents will vote for choice

Playing to win

employed in few areas more widely than education.
School "specialisation" is good. "Focus" — allow ing a school to make special provision for the admission of children who are, for instance, musical — is wholesome and fosters children's abilities.
"Selection", however, is bad, ignores the needs of the less academic, and leads to a divid-

ed society.
If Gillian Shephard had announced on Monday that specialise further by admitting 15 per cent of pupils who excelled at music, few outside the educational establishment that educational establishment that has falled our children for the past three decades would have hatted an eyelid. The Labour Party now, for instance, accepts that grant-maintained schools, with their inharent specialist bias, are here to stay. All the evidence (such as the 60,000 round ATS-HSB surthe 60,000 pupil ATS-HSB sur-vey) shows that pupils at had to struggle to find ways of schools with a clear-cut focus riculum, and a strong educa-

tional leadership.

Many on the left have now realised that education policy in Britain took a wrong turn when it embraced the comprehensive idea. The evidence is overwhelming that comprehensive schools do not educate our children properly. The

show that only 70 to 80 per cent of lessons are satisfactory—or that one in every four is unsatisfactory.

Comprehensive schools are based on two notions. The first

based on two notions. The first is social engineering. As Tony Crosland put it in 1956, education should be seen "as a seri-ous alternative to nationalisation in promoting a more just and efficient society". That view is now represented most eloquently by Roy Hattersley. The second is academic. To overcome the failure of the

schools, force high achievers into mixed-ability classes and schools and watch the less acacomprehensive schools have overcoming their inability to outperform those which lack stretch all pupils by attempt-clear goals, an ambitious cur-riculum, and a strong educa-educational equivalent of trying to play Rughy League and Union on the same pitch.

Indeed, even middle-class, Guardian-reading liberals, es-pecially in the inner cities, deny their own actions in worshipping at the shrine of their comprehensive sideals whilst sending young Charlotte or Thomas to a private or out-of-Competitiveness Report, published in September, ranks Britain 24th in quality of results, between Malaysia and Chilo and places are odded. Chile, and places our educational machinery directly to comprehensive system, they blame, at 35th out of 48. Her say; just that their own partic-

UPHEMISMS are Majesty's Chief Inspector of ular local school isn't up to the employed in few Schools' reports consistently job. If only this vicious governates more widely show that only 70 to 80 per cent ment spent more money on the Every one of the countries know where the next meal was

whilst angrily dismissing the views of those who argue that the structure of our educa-tional system is at fault. As John Gray has put it:

"Does egalitarian opposition to selection in state schools [not] guarantee, in effect, the future of a privileged private sector through which all of Britain's worst class inequalities are reproduced?.. Can we not learn from the Asian tigers that economic success in our time demands an education system that rewards ability, rather than one in which egalitarianism and privilege coexist and reinforce one an-So there is more than a full

measure of bypocrisy and eu-phemism at work here. Roy Hattersley is at least honest in his opposition to selection. He is right when he argues that specialisation — the politically correct word for selection - is inconsistent with the comprehensive ideal. For Labour to be opposed to Gillian Shephard's announcement of a tiny mearure of academic selection on the basis that it is a step away

Every one of the countries idolised by the post-war British left, such as Sweden, Austria, Germany, Denmark and France, has a selective educa-tion system. For selection by tion system. For selection by ability is a deeply socialist concept. The old and successful notion of the grammar school, that emanated from the same liberal or Whig intellectual well as the Northcote-Trevelyan Civil Service reforms in the 18th century was antiqued. the 19th century, was enthusi-astically adopted by Fabian socialists such as Sidney Webb and, later, RH Tawney, who saw selection by ability as the apotheosis of socialist meritocracy - opening up opportuni-ties to all on the basis of ability rather than parental wealth

HE REAL problem is that the iron grip of the politically cor-rect educational eswhere "selection" is a word the rest are left behind. The with as many negative connotations as racism — prevents state system perform so that what happens in the real world parents are not forced into the from affecting political debate. I made these arguments last their children out of the state year in a pamphlet for the sector. Gillian Shephard is no social Market Foundation and fool. Having seen Labour's welwas howled down by many on the left who equate a belief in of high standards threaten to comprehensive schools with a | outflank her, she has latched left philosophy (exactly the same confusion of means and ends that bedevilled Labour's old Clause 4). I wish I could show them the many other letters I received from Labour Party members, both parents and teachers. As one of them

coming from, but thanks to my grammar school was able to go to university and make some-thing of myself. Thank you for saying out loud what a lot of

vate school. But academic ability is now just one of the selec-tive-entry requirements. The other is parental wealth. Alternatively, parents with money move into the catchment area of one of the decent state schools. Surely it is the left which should be concerned to make the same choices available to all, regardless of their

ability to pay.

A mature debate would recognise that those parents who can afford to exercise a choice vote with their feet, and that come conversion to the cause on to a policy which stretches New Labour's educational credibility to the limit.

Stephen Pollard is head of research-designate at the Social Market Foundation. His pamphlet Schools, Selection and the Left is available from the SMF, 20 Queen Anne's Gate, London

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FinanceGuardian

The battle for Forte

Hotels sale **'only** choice'



Granada chief Gerry Robinson reverses tactics

Granada denies £3.8bn tag involves asset strip

RANADA yesterday raised the stakes in its battle for control of Forte by increasing its bid to £3.8 billion, pledging to sell the target group's Meridien and up-mar-ket hotels and promising shareholders a special dividend of 47p a share.

Apart from hoisting its cash offer for Forte from 321p to 362p a share. Granada also piled on the pressure by an-nouncing a deal with the Forte Council, the body that can theoretically block a take-

Assuming that over half of Forte's ordinary shareholders back Granada's bid, the Council has agreed to sell its 'Trust' shares in Forte for

raid" by Granada, there was Forte's chairman and chief executive. Sir Rocco Forte, could split his two jobs in a last-gasp attempt to appease institutional shareholders. flatly denied by Forte.

Forte shareholders have

until January 23 to decide. Announcing the raised offer, Granada chief executive Gerry Robinson said the group had decided to sell Mergroup had decided to sen mer-idien — a brand Granda originally pledged to expand — along with Forte's other "trophy" hotels, because "the level of interest . . . makes it absolutely the only choice available in terms of maximising shareholder value. There is a clear price and

quick sale achievable".

The identity of the potential buyers is not known. Accor, which Forts outbid to snap up value now, and in doing so, which Forte outbid to snap up Air France's 57 per cent Meri-dien stake in 1994, refused to

confirm an approach.
But Mr Robinson said Granada had also received a number of approaches from poten-tial buyers for Forte's 68 per cent stake in the Savoy hotel group, including "serious French players". The Grosve-nor House hotel is expected to

nor House note: is expected to command a price tag of ground £400 million.

Also going will be Forte's company jet, and the £200,000 annual sponsorship of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

Mr Robinson admitted that there would be some job losses, particularly with the closure of Forte's head office Denying that any such on London's High Holborn, move would be a "fire sale", where 300 staff work. But he ping. He went on: "Forte has | might not be sufficient.

nodding off lan King T WAS not explaining the bid strategy to the Forte Council that was the hardest task for Gerry Robinson, but keeping its octogenarian members awake. has materially impaired

Sir Rocco was quick to hit back. Urging shareholders to reject what he called "Granada's flimay commercial logic", he said the bid still undervalued the prospects of the demerged "New Forte". He said: "Now we see this bid for what it's worth — a 1980s style highly-leveraged asset strip, from an unfocused conglomerate.

future values."

City analysts were divided on the raised offer's chances of success. Nomura's Ron Littleboy insisted that if Forte sold its roadside restaurants for £1 billion to Whitbread meeting promises on higher dividends would be tough. He added: "I think this is enough

Octogenarians was sewn up.
It means charities like
the Armed Services Benevolent Fund could be several on Council nod through £50m

thousand pounds a year better off. The genteal body normally meets around four times a year to discuss donations from the £70,000 or so it normally receives from Forte dividends. Under the deal signed late

on Monday night and thrashed out personally by Mr Astor and Granada chairman Alex Bernstein, the trust will sell its shares if more than half of Forte's

ordinary shareholders ac-cept Granada's offer. The deal values the council's trust shares at £64.10 each, against the 362p cash offer to other shareholders. Yesterday, Mr Bernstein said that the council would play a "consultative role on

an informal bests".

Asked what this meant be replied: "We shall probably meet with the Council around four times a year, and consult them on the

way the business is run."
Mr Robinson was more forthright: "It was stupid that that share structure rose 7p to 351p amid uncon- of £1.7 billion for both was Forte that he was asset-strip- Lynch said he thought the bid Mr Robinson's arguments dicrous for a modern public - and seen the colour of his | limited company."

Notebook

Takeover bid tilts Robinson's way



Edited by Mark Milner

knock-about exchanges between the warring factions, there is a certain ele-gance about Granada's response to Forte's vigorous efforts to retain its indepen-dence. It is not simply that the group has been able to up its offer to 23.8 million, though one might find echoes of Forte's buy-back offer in Granada's special dividend

proposal.
What appeals is that Granads, and its chief executive Gerry Robinson, now appears intent on selling many of those parts of the business which Forte intended to keep or vice versa. Granada wants to keep the down market hotels and the road-side restaurants and would sell the top-of-the-range hotels. Wel-come Break would go on competition grounds and Granada clearly has none of the sentimental attachment to the Savoy that the Forte family has shown until very recently. Forte, if it survives, will emerge primarily as ar upmarket hotelier.

Any idea of peace talks, however, looks naive. Forte would never have agreed to Granada-style dismember-ment before the bid and is even less likely to do so now on Granada's brons.

The question for shareholders now is whether those terms represent fair value for the assets Granada would sell and those it would manage. Granada looks to be expecting to recoup a sizeable chunk of its outlay from subsequent disposals and reckons it will have no shortage of takers. It is also making much of its belief that it could run the Forte has done.

The vigour of the Forte defence notwithstanding, those are arguments which will carry weight with City insti-tutions. So, too, will the tax benefits of the special divi-dend. The battle for Forte is not yet over, but yesterday it tilted Granada's way.

Criteria doubts

THEO WAIGEL, the German finance minister, yesterday punctured any remaining complacency that Europe's cors nation would, quasi-effortlessly, fulfil all the Maastricht criteria for entry to monetary union. His admission, against the background of a larger-than-expected rise in unemployment to 3.8 million last month, that Germany "slightly" overshot the 3 per cent budget deficit criterion last year, does not rule out the country doing so

The economy, however, is in deep trouble, with unem-ployment certain to top 4 mil-

growth, according to the tragrowth, according to the tra-ditional pessimists of the DIW institute, unlikely to rise above 1 per cent this year. Profligate pay rises in the public sector last year, recent fax cuts for the low paid, ex-cessive burdens on social se-curity spending — all mili-tate in favour of enhanced budgetary problems this year. Some analysts in London Some analysts in London question Mr Waigel's opti-mism that the Maastricht criteria would be met in 1996 and in the critical year of 1997 that will provide the data for deciding which countries go on, supposedly, to lock their exchange rates on New Year's Day 1999. They were more cautious in Frankfurt, but omists like Hermann Remsperger of BHF Bank cast doubt on Germany meeting

the strict criteria. Certainly, with the German economy performing at least I per cent below potential, the Bundesbank — which pointed money market rates down-wards yesterday with a variable repo-tender — could shave a further 50 basis points off the discount-rate within the next few months. But would that be enough to raise Germany out of the economic mire, at least within the Maastricht time scale? Euro-enthusiasts might ask who would lib at a member joining EMU with a 3.2 per cent deficit? Well, Germany,

Ecu support

THERS besides Mr Waigel have the timing of EMU on their minds. Yesterday the Bank of England announced a tender for Treasury notes denominated in ecus. The 500 million ecu offering is not the first of its kind by the UK authorities but it is the first ecu note issue with a maturity date be-

yond January 1, 1999. That could well be taken as a sign that the UK authorities remain supportive of the ecu raise the odd technical issue – such as the relationship be tween the ecu and the product of monetary union, the Euro, which is scheduled to come into being in 1999.

Seentin

Under the terms of the Masstricht treaty it was envisaged that the ecu and the Euro should be exchangeable on the basis of one-to-one. The ecu, however, is a basket cur-rency while the Euro — if it happens in 1999 — will be the product of the interlocking of a much narrower range of currencies. More to the point, the Euro will be a stronger currency than the ecu and there must be every likeli-hood that, over time, there will be more than one ecu to

the Euro. The problem for subscribers for the new ecu issue is what will happen if, when they come to redeem their notes in late January 1999. monetary union has taken place and the expected divergence has already occurred?
If the gap is a modest one, the
Bank of England might
choose to allow a one-for-one
swap of ecus to Euros. Otherin deep trouble, with unem-ployment certain to top 4 mil-lion during the spring and wise, there will be much be-lated pouring over the small print of the issue prospectus.

Fund manager with decisive stake covers her bet

Profile

SHE looks for all the world like the business librarian she started out as — a well groomed, be-spectacled brunette, torites

Lisa Buckingham.
But Carol Galley — one of three vice-chairs of the hugely powerful fund management group, Mercury Asset Management, and un-doubtedly one of the most powerful women in the City - probably holds the out-come of Granada's takeover

cantly younger despite relentlessly long working hours. sits astride share stakes of about 14 per cent in both the bidder and the target. Intriguingly, Ms Galley and

her team have kept observers on the edge of their seats by failing obviously to play one side off against the other. Ever since the bid was unveiled, Ms Galley - whose £800,000 pay packet last year probably put her at the top of industry's female earners has steadily acquired shares in both Granada and Forte.

The 47-year-old Ms Galley, who friends say looks significantly younger despite relent-buying Forte shares in case her as "charming" while buying Forte shares in case there is a higher offer but has also sought to strengthen Granada's share price to bolster its case for yesterday's in-

Those who know Ms Galley say that despite MAM's individualistic tactics — the group is one of the few which dares to take large stakes in companies it regards as undervalued and steers clear of those it dislikes — she does not let personal preference override a calculation of investment performance. And, although Ms Galley

others describe her as good humoured, if not flippant. Married to a German banker but with no children, Ms Galley's concession to work flexi-bility is to cut out at 4.30 on most Friday afternoons to join her husband in their south of France home. Ms Galley has spent the

past 25 years working her way through the ranks of MAM, which was until recently largely owned by merchant banking group Warburg but which is now independently quoted.

timidates a number of her peers in the City and, as a woman, probably suffers in the eyes of a largely male community for a lack of "clu-bability." One rival fund manager criticised her for ar-rogance and spurning collective gatherings.

deal . . . after

Two council members

average age 83, apparently nodded off during the Gra-nada chief executive's pre-

Convincing the council — set up in 1904 to promote

temperance — was crucial because it could have scup-pered the bid. The coun-

cil's 780.000 trust shares

carry the same voting

power as all of Forte's

Once the councillors, led by chairman Hugh Astor

and including former

other ordinary shares.

sentation to them.

But another said: "She is very straightforward. There's nothing weird or scary about her, she's a perfectly reason-able human being."

For a woman who is reputed to shun personal publicity Ms Galley is, however,

Quite clearly Ms Galley in- | shakers in the community of insurance and pension fund investors whose judgments whether through boardroom shake-ups or takeover bids. She hit the headlines during Granada's hostile £750 million takeover bid for the London

TV station, LWT, two years ago when, despite having been dealt one of the best investment returns in the sector, she decided to hand control of the business to Granada's Gerry Robinson. Her actions earned a vituperative warning about the behaviour of investors one of a handful of the be-hind-the-scenes movers and of LWT.

Cheap labourers pawns in the takeover game

Workface/ 'Flexibility' means untrained stop-gap staff, says Richard Thomas

chambermaid in Forte's Bloomsbury hotel, paid on a piecework rate of £1.50 per one mistake and forget something. I get no money for that room," she said yesterday. With each bedroom taking her up to 45 minutes to clean, this is a sanction the 20 yearold Latin American can ill-

Like many of the staff servicing London hotels, Meisha (not her real name) works for an agency which supplies cheap labour to the trade. Junior waiters and kitchen workers in the Bloomsbury are also contracted-in. Serv-

EISHA worries constantly about towels and shampoo. As a said: "I earn £1 an hour, but there's not much choice really." He says his English is too poor to work elsewhere.

These are the pawns in the game being played by Forte and Granada — the people from whom "more value" is to be squeezed to boost profits. Those at the bottom of the pile already work long hours for lowly wages, and mostly as a stop-gap — a third of hotel workers move every year, twice the level of turn-over recorded in Germany. The 312,000 people working in British hotels are at the

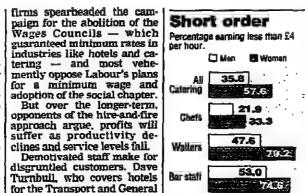
cutting edge of the Conserva-

tive drive for a "flexible"

labour market. Big leisure

paign for the abolition of the Wages Councils — which guaranteed minimum rates in industries like hotels and ca-tering — and most vehemently oppose Labour's plans for a minimum wage and

adoption of the social chapter. But over the longer-term, opponents of the hire-and-fire approach argue, profits will suffer as productivity declines and service levels fall. Demotivated staff make for Turnbull, who covers hotels for the Transport and General Workers' Ünion London Region, remarks: "We have lots of cases of staff pillering from rooms. If hotels rely on cheap agency labour, this is difficult to control - so they end up telling guests their possessions aren't safe in their own rooms." Even the Confederation of



British Industry, which backed the campaign to abolish wage controls, has highlighted the related problems of high staff turnover and training. Better staff reten- fectively control the market tion levels on the Continent

give firms "advantages we control pay levels." The don't have", according to growth of the mega-hotel June Ellison-Sealy, head of the Tourism Action Group at trade union efforts. Union-nethe CBI.

Some industry spokespeople agree there is a trade-off between staff treatment and client satisfaction, but reckon market discipline is the only way to police the problem — not government-enforced labour standards. Martin Couchman, deputy chief executive of British Hospitality, argues: "Wages councils in-hibited flexibility of manage-ment. Hotels which provide a "Wages councils inpoor service will eventually

But mergers and takeovers may undermine the very market forces the industry claims will punish bad employers. Chris Pond of the Low Pay Unit says: "Big chains now ef-

gotiated agreements in ten London hotels owned by the Comfort Hotel Group were de-funct the day after Ladbroke Hilton took over. Only 10 per cent of hotel workers now be long to a trade union, a third of the national average. As a result, unions have

changed their strategy. "Now we try and get workers to think and act collectively, rather than making membe ship the be-all and end-all. said Mr Turnbull. Brian Revell, T&G national

secretary for drink and tobacco says that hotel owners "have an almost class struggle view of things. They see trade unions as bent on destroying their industries which is the opposite of the

Barings' fraud inspectors look to Singapore again

Pauline Springett

THE Serious Fraud Onice is considering whether to send inspectors back to Singapore to reactivate its inquiries into the collapse of Barings bank.
This could result in the

SFO interviewing several key former staff of Baring Putures Singapore (BFS), the subsidiary at which Nick Leeson incurred most of the £860 million losses in the trading which led to the bank's col-lapse. The possibility follows the decision by the liquida-tors of BFS to give the SFO access to documents for which the SFO had been fighting through the courts.

An SFO spokeswoman stressed that there were no immediate plans to send a team to Singapore, but added: We are currently considering what, if any, further in-

The SFO's investigation into the Barings collapse was at its height during last sum-mer amid speculation that it might seek to have Mr Leeson returned to the UK for trial. But the SFO has always insisted that it would only pursue its inquiry if it had reason to believe that criminal activity in Britain had contributed to the bank's crash last February.

The investigation has, accordingly, been scaled down. But it has not ceased and could be reactivated. Newspaper reports in Sin-

gapore, denied yesterday by the SFO, suggested that officials were poised to interview James Bax, the former managing director of BFS, and its former finance director. Simon Jones. They are both awaiting the outcome of an investigation by the Singapore authorities.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.0175 France 7.40 Cyprus 0.6950 Denmark 8.40 Finland 6.70

Germany 2.1500 Halts 0.5400 Netherlands

Singapore 2.15 South Africa 5.47 Spain 181.00 Greece 363.00 Netherlands 2.4250 Spain 181.00 Sweden 10.07 New Zealand 2.30 Sweden 10.07 Ofway 9.60 Portugal 228.00 udi Arabia N/A USA 1.5150

Simon Bearis Industrial Editor

BOEING continued its sweep of multi-billion dollar airliner orders with Far Eastern carriers yesterday when it clinched a \$4 billion order for 25 jets from Malaysian Airline Systems in what is a significant setback for the

Royce, which has been chosen to power 15 of the Boeing 777

the 24-aircraft lion's share of range of aircraft in the fleet.

Boeing wins \$4bn Malaysian order in setback for Airbus but triumph for Rolls-Royce

European Airbus Industrie other contests for Far Eastern it has already supplied the tem. It would be very orders in deals with Singalairline with A330 jets. But expensive,"

The deal marks another important victory for Rolls flag carrier. Chinese Airlines. Vesterday that they could not to 1996 for Boeing, which ision, said the engine's suc-Airbus's one consolation was afford to have too broad a scrambled back to be market cess had been even more

to power 15 of the boeing 777 the 24-aircraft hoff's share of airliners on order from MAS. The \$475 million order will protect around 10.000 jobs in the UK aero-engine industry.

In the past four months Boeing has won two of three the MAS deal, particularly as the market of aircraft in the fleet. There was only going to be one winner." said Tapudin bus in 1994.

Ramli, chairman of the company that operates MAS. "We stake — had hoped to share in the entire Asia Pacific and been selected by the market in the fleet. There was only going to be into second place behind Air bus in 1994.

Rolls-Royce will supply its orders in the entire Asia Pacific and been selected by the market in the fleet. There was only going to be into second place behind Air bus in 1994.

Rolls-Royce will supply its orders in the entire Asia Pacific and been selected by the market in the fleet. There was only going to be one winner." said Tapudin bus in 1994.

Rolls-Royce will supply its orders in the entire Asia Pacific and been selected by the four that the fleet. There was only going to be one winner." said Tapudin bus in 1994.

Rolls-Royce will supply its orders in the entire Asia Pacific and been selected by the four that the fleet. There was only going to be one winner." said Tapudin bus in 1994.

Rolls-Royce will supply its orders in the entire said the Trent had taken about 60 per cent of Boeing 777 orders in the entire Asia Pacific and been selected by the four that the fleet.

commercial aero-engine divleader last year having fallen marked in the Far East. He

REG RUSEDSKI and
Tim Henman are
warming up nicely
for the Australian
Open, which opens in Melbourne on Monday. Both
bourne on Monday. Both
outple, with a wing at the scored notable wins at the Peters International tourna-

ment in Sydney yesterday.
Rusedski, the Montrealborn British No. I. took two
tiebreaks to beat the secondseeded Richard Krajicek 7-6. 7-6; Henman, who had to come through the qualifying round, had an unexpectedly easy 6-4, 6-2 win over Austra-lia's Mark Philippoussis.
While Rusedski, the world No. 38, will take heart from

beating Holland's world No. 11, Henman's win was seen as more of an upset; Philippoussis is regarded as Australia's best prospect since Pat Cash, the 1987 Wimbledon champion.

Henman out-thought the Australian teenager, whose game is built almost entirely on power. "His game can sometimes become a little



Rusedski . . . in form

as I can play."
Philippoussis, already
world-ranked No. 39 — Henman is No. 95 — denied that his game was limited or that he felt burdened by heavy Australian expectation. He insisted he had simply had a

sisted he had simply had a bad day.
With the first round still uncompleted, only two seeds remained in the men's draw.
France's Arnaud Boetsch (3), the Dutchman Jan Siemerink (6) Alberto Cost of Sanis etc. (6), Alberto Costa of Spain (7) and Chile's Marcelo Rios (8)

were all beaten.

The top seed Goran Ivanisevic was barely extended in a
6-3, 6-3 win over Germany's
David Prinosil, who arrived in Sydney only on the morn-ing of the match after reach-ing the semi-finals of the Qatar Open at the weekend.

Variate Upen at the weekend.

Ivanisevic, the world
No. 10, is having a good run.
He won the Grand Slam Cup
in Munich last month and
partnered Iva Majoli to victory in last week's Horman tory in last week's Hopman Cup team event in Perth. "I am playing better than I ever have at the beginning of a year," said the 24-year-old.

"My goal this year is to win a grand slam tournament." Monica Seles, top seed in the women's event, had a first-round bye. Martina Hingis, one of her potential rivals, missed four match points and went out 6-4, 2-6, 7-5 to the eighth-seeded Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan. In the third set the Swiss girl was warned for throwing her

racket in disgust.

• Martin Lee, who will be 18 on Saturday, has been con-firmed as the world No. 3 junior in the International Tennis Federation's end-ofyear rankings. The Worthing teenager won the junior doubles with James Trottman at Wimbledon in July.



Genie of the lamp ... Andre Agassi, newly shaven-headed, holds court in Melbourne, where he is polishing up his magic touch for the Australian Open PHOTOGRAPH WILLIAM WEST is a little more stickwork here is holds for the Australian Open PHOTOGRAPH WILLIAM WEST is like in Canada where, if you

Ice Hockey

Tension rises as brawl teams meet

Vic Batchelder on tonight's rematch of the season between Durham and Sheffield

RITISH ice hockey will collectively hold its breath tonight when the Sheffield Steelers visit the Durham technical director and chief trouble shooter, is confident that the game's image will not be blackened further. He will watch over tonight's proceed-Wasps at Sunderland's Crowtree Ice Rink. When the sides last met, at

the same venue on December 16, the Premier Division match was halted for 30 min-utes after a mass brawl while blood was cleaned from the ice, the crowd calmed and two of their number treated for shock. Durham's Canadian forward Ross Lambert was taken to hospital with a seri-ous eye injury and Sheffield's Nicky Chinn was arrested and questioned by the police. All this followed a mid-ice clash in which Chinn's stick made contact with Lambert.

Chinn, who was subsequently released on bail pending the outcome of police inquiries, received a mandatory three-match ban but is now free to play again. He will line up for Sheffield tonight. Lambert, meanwhile, waits

to see if he will ever play again. Having spent two days in Sunderland Eye Infirmary, where 17 stitches were inserted in cuts around an eye, the retina and tear duct of which were also damaged, he which were also damaged, he continues to convalesce, unsure whether he will regain. There have been several perfect vision. However, his other instances this season of older brother Dale, will be in players receiving facial inju-

is set for a repeat of last month's madness on ice. How-ever. Nico Toemen, the Brit-is a little more stickwork here

ings having thoroughly briefed all concerned, includ-ing the match referee Simon Kirkham. Toemen dismisses sugges-

brand new hockey game; we don't want anything to happen but, if somebody goes out and does something, then we will come down on them like out incident. However, the

staff to ensure adequate pre-cautions against any disorder among an expected capacity 1,200 crowd. The small rink is part of Crowtree Leisure Cen-tile 9,500 crowd at the Shef-field Arena, the ingredients may be more combustible. For that game Toemen will utilise the services of the top tre, currently a temporary home for the Wasps, who are owned by Sir John Hall and await the building of a planned new 8,000-seat arena behind Newcastle United's St James' Park ground.

The original clash has brought to a head the questhe Wasps side, as he was on that infamous December night.

An added ingredient tonight could be a debut for most violent in the world".

Steelers' formidable Dutch-Canadian defenceman Jamie tingham Panthers' Canadian Van der Horst, who was player coach Mike Blaisdell, signed from Solihull who suggested that an overesterday.

Many might think the scene emphasis by the game's rulers on eliminating fist fights

give someone a good slash, the chances are you have to fight em. "Some guys don't want to

do that, so you don't get as much [stickwork] in the first place. European players aren't brought up under that system — that to be a man you've got to drop your gloves once in while. That's not their way. Most European players have never dropped their

gloves in their lives."

Blaisdell says fighting in hockey should not be confused with violence and ahead, full stop, end of story,"
he said yesterday.
"I will have both coaches in the referee's room before the game and just tell them it's a pretty safe here considering it

a ton of bricks."

He will meet rink security staff to ensure adequate pretile 9,500 crowd at the Shef-Canadian referee, Dan Emmerson.



Russell's Rocket to continue run

Ron Cox

1:50

eud inspectors

apore again

REEZING weather and snowdrifts failed to hait the progress of first sea-son trainer Lucinda Russell, who defied the elements to score with Fiveleigh Builds at

Newcastle last Friday. That was Miss Russell's seventh winner from 33 runners, an impressive start by any standards, and august well for the chances of Rocket Run at Kelso this afternoon. Conditions were so bad at the Russell base at Kinross.

on the east coast of Scotland. that even getting supplies of water to the horses was a major problem.

However. at Newcastle Fiveleigh Builds never flinched when making all the running to beat kilcolgan, who is one

of Rocket Run's rivals in the Pat de Clermont Handicap Chase today. Bought for 26,000gns at the Doncaster Sales after winning eight point-to-points, Rocket Run has jumped well, if a shade to his right, on two vis-

its to Kelso already and he sauntered home at Edinburgh

A hesitant round of jump-ne from Seven Towers at Richard Dunwoody has ing from Seven Towers at Cheltenham last time sug-gests Mary Reveley's sevenyear-old might not be one to thance with the sponsors, in take a short price about in the Bet With The Tote Novice pardstown on Saturday.

favour Major Bell over hurdles — he was beaten only a length by What A Question at Aintree last April — and he looks the sort to do well over

when winning narrowly at Kelso in November, will miss his intended engagement at Wetherby tomorrow after suffering a minor setback.

his throat and just isn't quite right at present," revealed Peter Beaumont, trainer of the 1993 Gold Cup winner.

The Guardian racing team landed its fifth consecutive winning nap yesterday with Robellion (11-4) at Lingfield.

Jodami is now likely to tackle the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock on Saturday week before bidding to win the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown for the fourth

year in a row.

Pentire has been given the go-ahead to represent Britain in the Duhai World Cup, the

agreed to ride the Simon Dow-trained Chief's Song, a 16-1 Chase.

In receipt of a stone, Major
Bell (1.15) is preferred.
Those terms would cartainly

Kelso card with guide to the form

10.04	man a constant from a		
2.11	Judicial Field	3.45 Soerba	
	liberdies, Soft Closes, Good to		
		re denota daya since intest IIII outle	
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2	414-UFD DORDYANG REAF (4	(CD) Mrs L Marshell 10-11-0	
3	5225-8 D'ARRIAY STREET	425 W Kemp 7-10-10	A Dobbin +
4	PIZIF-F DORLIN CASTLE (4)	1) L Lungo 8-10-10	T Reed
5	FIRSTS- GO SILLY (225) 8 E	ISOS 10-10-30	
	60PI-0 ESLAND RIVER (44)	C Parker 8-10-10	D Peritor
7	1250-32 TVY HOUSE (48) (M) J O'Nettl 8-10-10	
	· OOP- JUST THE JOB (398) Li Herrmond 8-10-10	Mr C Booner
l ∗	0004-P LAUDER SQUARE (103 T Dan 8-10-10	B Renny *
40	SPACE WARRANT WITH MAKE	5 Whiteau P. 10. 10	DE Mariano

12954 tile searraspending meeting.
Betting: 7-4 Seven Towers, 7-2 hry House, 9-2 Mejor Bell, 6-1 Devin Castle, 9-1 Sevey, 16-1 One
Mierera, 20-1 Just The Job, 25-1 D Arbley Street, Parisot Light

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	SP MCKY'S FEELINGS (1117) T Drift 4-10-3	
10	80 RICANA (\$3) W Kerro 4-10-3	
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Kinsman Cheltenham bound

ARCTIC KINSMAN will be prepared for the Arkle Challenge Chase at the Cheltenham Festival after putting up a sparkling display on his fencing debut at Leicester yesterday.

Apart from drifting left at some obstacles the grey displayed in the control of the month to give him a little hit

some obstacles, the grey displayed a sound technique to put Callisoe Bay in his place in the Groby Novice Chase. plete control by the final



in the Groby Novice Chase.

Arctic Kinsman made all jumping was faultless apart the running and was in comfron him wandering a little bit which was probably down

to greenness."
Injuries have restricted

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	3	52256-5 D'ARBLAY STREET (43) W Kemp 7-10-10	A Dobbin +
	4	PTZTF-F DORLIN CASTLE (49) L Lungo 8-10-10	T Reed
	5	F/85/29- GO SILLY (225) 8 Elisco 10-10-10	M Footer
		60PI-0 ISLAND RIVER (44) C Parker 8-10-10	_D Peritor
ļ	7	1250-32 TVY HOUSE (48) (BF) J C'Nett 8-10-10	
i		. 009- JUST THE JOB (298) M Hummord 8-10-10	
		200/4-P LAUDER SQUARE (60) T Dan 8-10-10	_B Storey *
	10	182242- MAJOR BELL (248) A Wiskers 8-10-10	
	11	636/PP6- PADDY MORRESSEY (341) J Haldane 9-10-10	_B Harding
1	12	DIGF/32- PERFECT LIGHT (492) Lint \$ South 7-10-10	_Mr P Marray
	13	/31229:- SAYOY (696) G Richards 9-16-10	P Corberry
	14	21512-2 CUSET INTETREBE (43) 16 Byrhell G-10-5	
	15	649P-F5 SAGANO BELLE (21) A Crow 10-10-5	P Wagyett
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Notified, 31-1 Just The Job, 33-1 O Arbaiy Street, Perfect Light
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(Crehertum Sartis, Gd).
DOELIN CASTISE Let, goog sell when left this to race won by Earby Johar (Necham Sirt, Gd).
PMY FOURISE Chased wincer 4 cas, no impression, bits 60 by Intel Gent (Hechim Sirt), Gd).
BALJOR BSELL Challenged 3 cas, for pert, headed that 100yris, tan 21 by Gospel (Haydork 20178) Hite, Gd-

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4	00203-0 MARKED CARD (5) Mrs M Kendul 8-11-10
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TOP I	FORM TIPS: Burstwint S, Aragon Ayr 7, Mr Davious S
	nos 15.8 Europeiro A.1 Arrogen Avr. Mr Devieus, 5-1 Kirstenbasch, 12-1 Urban Descina, 14-1 Ri

serious challenger fell two from home.

Rocket Run (3.15) does not appear overburdened on his handicap debut and looks nap material.

A hesitant round of tump
World's richest norse race, on March 27.

Geoff Wragg, the colt's trainer, yesterday took up the challenge, having gained a fallenge, having gained a fallenge, having the impression of the Nad Al Sheba course on a recent trin to Duboi.

34 to Hair's a Dancer (Cagaries 2m, Go-Pm).		
2.15 WEFRED & PRITISCIA CRAWFORD MERICINAL PICAP CHASE	2m 1f ta,271	
1 015-112 STRONG APPROACH (25) (BF) J Charles 11-11-10	it Storey	
2 3144-61 200222 NO (36) (CD) Mrs S Sradburre 11-11-9	T Heed	
3 5F111-5 SUPER SANDY (48) F Whites 9-11-8	D Pertur (2)	
4 182312 FLASH OF REALM (38) P Wortelft 10-11-6		
S 2F-4121 - KENICHAL FEELD (201) N Tinkin: 7-10-11	E Dayer *	
\$ 24-1324 BREAR'S DELICATT (28) A Alex 8-10-5		
A complete		
TOP FORM TIPS: Brier's Delight S, Sepole Me 7		
Bettings 6-9 Judicial Field, 11-4 Sonate No. 5-1 Strong Approach, Flash Of Ri Brian's Delight	nairs, 8-1 Super Sordy, 16-	
POPPE GEOME - STRONG APPROACH: Led 7th to 4 and, still every cleaned with by Newbold Proces (Cotterfet 2m, GG-Fm).		
SOMME MO: Close up until led 4 out, slayed on well, won by 16 from PLASP	15. Gett.	
SUPPER SANDY: Promisers, until weakened upp 4 till, distant lest of 5 to heartness to hear best held on well, won by 11 from Precipics Rutt (Certible 24.	, этисніц аррисасні (іні) , Gd).	
whether the property of the party of the par	and if amounts fortill (Int. Pro)	

2.45 OOH AAH DARY STAR THE ROYIGH HUMBLE 2m 110mm \$2,018 6-1 COLONES, NI CHIEF (4-5) (ES) F Marphy 4-11-12 65 BABIC BUDY (67) B Maclegart 7-11-3 0002 DESERT BRAVE (87) Mrs S Smith 6-11-6 0002 DESERT BRAVE (27) Idra S Smith 6-11-6
0000-R PRINE TURKE (22) May 5 Breathurns 0-11-6
058 HERRY MODELET (5) P Months 7-11-5
4 HIGHLAND WAY (20) M Touburner 8-11-6
HOWFOUNDOWN M Bernes 6-11-6
6 KISHMARK WHEN (21) R Coffort 8-11-5
6 KISHMARK RYER (21) R Coffort 8-11-5
05-0 SHADES SAND (5) P Months 5-11-5
05 SKAME RYER (45) G Richards 5-11-5
09 SKAME RYER (45) G Richards 5-11-5 15 POCILAW J Clear 7-11-0
14 8-4000 MFADOWLMCK (45) W Young 7-11-0
17 POLLY STAR L Lungs 5-11-0 _R Marshy (7)

18 4UU4P9- \$10 LADY (\$244) J Charles 8-11-0 TOP FORE THE Joseph Charact S, Calumet In Chief 7, Depart Score S

299/19- AMERICACION CONTE (2005) (3) J N Johnson 11-11114144 RAINEY NURBLE (201) (0) D Whiten 11-11-5
13-140: KELCOLOAN (0) (CD) Mm J Goodwide 9-11-4
41F22 STOP THE WALLER (4) F Murphy 7-11-2
27442-00 DOLDEN PRODUCE (2006) J Greef 8-11-3
2744-271 NOCKET FUNK (47) (CD) Miss L V PLASSE 9-10-12
274-271 NOCKET FUNK (47) (CD) Miss L V PLASSE 9-10-12
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Murray, who took out a licence last month. sent out

ilicence last month, sent out his first winner when Happy Partner, ridden by Michael Tebbutt, beat Haslam's Copper Bright by a length and a quarter.

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He had previously run Middleham-based Haslam's Gopper Haslam's Copper Bright by a length and a quarter.

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David Lacey on suspicions of FA division as a senior member tries to clarify the procedure for extending the England coach's contract

New doubts on Venables' future

flew back from a holi-day in the sun yesterday to find a fresh cloud of doubt being raised about the wisdom of extending his contract as England's coach before he has proved himself in this summer's

Venables will be back at his desk at the Football Association this morning and later this week will resume negotiations with Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, over a new contract which would leave him in charge for the

1998 World Cup. Both Kelly and Sir Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, want Venables to stay on. Kelly,

ERRY VENABLES moreover, is keen to get the the renewal of Venables's tee not thinking Terry Vena- actions have yet to be come clearer a week today. New back from a holi- issue settled before the sum- contract as a virtual fait ac bles is the right man for the resolved, as has Alan Sugar's when Kelly and Venables are mer. It would not make sense he argues, to be discussing terms in August when England will almost certainly be playing their first World Cup qualifier in September.

Yesterday, however, Ian Stott, the Oldham chairman and a leading member of the FA's international committee, went on BBC Radio 4's Today programme to question both the timing of the Vena-bies exercise and who should be involved in the decision-

It is clear that the commit-tee are concerned about being upstaged by a Kelly-Millichip cabal which would present

compli. The 81-year-old Millichip's impending retirement as chairman is another factor. "I don't think it is a question of whether the international committee want to

have a say,". Stott argued. 'It's just a question of establishing the procedure: who is involved and who ultimately finds out about it. The question of timing might come into it and who is responsible. Those are two points that Stott insisted that he and

his fellow committee mem-bers are not gunning for Ven-ables. "There is no question

bles is the right men for the job," he said. "I think we'll just let him get right on with it until such a time that something comes along which we can't ignore."

There, of course, is the rub. The backing for Venables's coaching credentials may be unanimous and would weaken only if England had as bad a European Championship as they did under Gra-ham Taylor in Sweden four years ago. But there is concern about the amount of litigation outstanding in which

Venables is still involved. His case against Tottenham or wrongful dismissal is in resolved, as has Alan Sugar's own libel suit against Venables. In addition Venables faces the possibility of being disqualified as a company director following an 18-month inquiry into his business

dealings by the Department of Trade and Industry. Even Kelly has admitted that "there are a lot of imponderables flying around". Part of his discussions with Vena-bles will concern the amount of the England coach's time that is likely to be taken up with legal matters once the European Championship is

in Warsaw to sort out the dates of fixtures with Eng-land's opponents in the World Cup qualifiers — Italy, Poland, Georgia and Moldova.

To a certain extent the present uncertainties were inevitable once the FA had decided to give Venables a twoyear contract instead of following precedent and putting him in charge for both ship and the 1998 World Cup.

The odds are heavily in the job after Euro '96, always His case against Tottenham over.

for wrongful dismissal is in From the footballing point for one thing there is no obviits third year, two libel of view the picture will be ous alternative. Gerry Franchorizon. assuming he still wants it.



cis is not interested and Kevin Keegan would surely think twice about swapping Newcastle, where the world is at his feet, for England, where he would have the world on

Nevertheless, the FA would be considerably relieved should its mediator manage to resolve the dispute be-tween Venables and Sugar without everybody going back to the High Court. There are still too many legal foot-balls cluttering up England's

player drug test

Russell Thomas

HE first cocaine scandal to hit English football threatens to put Roger Stanislaus of Leyton Orient time as the FA braces itself to deal with potentially the most

erious drug case to date.
The full-back was yesterday charged by the FA with misconduct and is the first to stand accused of using a performance enhancing drug and to fail a test after a match. The FA regards the case as

"extremely serious"
Unlike Arsenal's Paul Merson, who admitted to experimenting with cocaine, but only socially. Stanislaus is believed to have had traces in his system immediately after a game when the 27-year-old player was randomly tested after Orient's 3-0 defeat at Barnet on November 25.

Stansilaus, who is also the first player to fail any drug test this season, can expect an extensive ban if found guilty and will be allowed to return only when he has satisfacto-rily completed an extensive rehabilitation programme.

The seriousness of the case was made clear by the FA spokesman Steve Double. Any traces of a performance enhancing drug, particularly after a match, must be treated as a matter of the utmost seriousness," said Double.
"Cocaine is a stimulant and

in this case, the test level of the sample is thought to be performance-enhancing and answer on those grounds."
Stanislaus has 14 days to request a personal hearing

and the FA said it will deal speedily with the case. Stanislaus will be allowed to play until the case is con-cluded but Orient may decide to "rest" him. The future of the Hammersmith-born player, bought from Bury for

discussed by Orient's chair-man Barry Hearn and their manager Pat Holland. Merson spent four months out of the game after present-ing himself to the FA after newspaper revelations of rec-reational cocaine use: But the Arsenal player's problems were more to do with cam-bling and alcohol and the ac-

rehabilitation and education. The Stanislaus case does ties' eyes, point to a downturn in the fight against drugs. Brendan Batson of the players' union, the PFA, said: "The level of positive tests, while a concern, does not give rise to the feeling that the game is rife with players using drugs."

cent of the FA's response was

The FA conducted 272 ran dom tests last season and found 12 positive samples, all Tests have been running at a similar level this season The 12 failed tests included

eight cannabis samples, Chris Armstrong, then of Crystal Palace, being the most cele-brated case, two for sub-stances found in cold cures

Norwich City demonstrators will be up in arms again if Birmingham win at Carrow Road tonight but John Duncan finds a cool customer in the hot seat

Chase the chairman who refuses to fade away

OBERT CHASE is not wearing a tin helmet. There is no bunker mentality at Carrow Road. As far as the Norwich chairman is concerned, tonight's Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final against Birming is an important match but nothing more.

His critica disagree. The have staged sit-ins, red-card protests, stay-aways and demonstrations that have come close to real ugliness. For them this is make-or-break time for a club that has sold its best players and lost its soul. Defeat tonight and their shouts of "Chase out" will

raise the roof. Chase himself will be un-moved. "What makes football such a marvellous game is that people feel so passionate about it." he said. "What we are going through here other chairmen have had to face. It's part of the job. We've just got to grit our teeth and tough

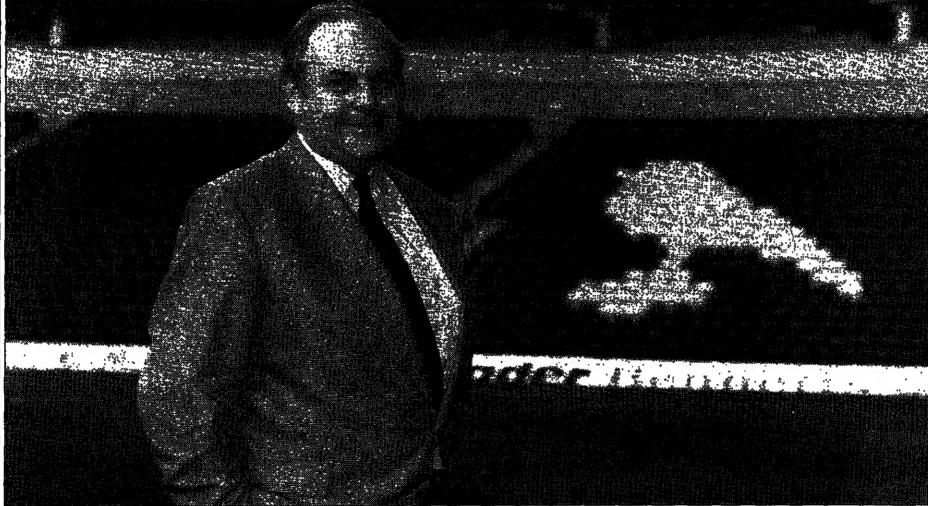
The case for the prosecu-tion is simple. Chase, say his critics, has improved the ground by selling players — Chris Sutton, Ruel Fox. Tim Sherwood, Mark Robins of

recent vintage.

He has allowed good managers to go because they would not bend to his will, he has built up the capital assets of the club — land, car parks, new stands — in order to make a killing when a proposed flotation occurs. And, cash to let Norwich compete with the best, he refuses to step aside and let someone

else have a go. Chase shouts a loud No Guilty on all counts. The decrepit ground had to be improved because of the Taylor report, he says. The money from players is reinvested as far as possible but the books have to be balanced. He never interferes in anything other than keeping a firm and sensible financial control. He has built up the assets in the longterm interests of the club and, if someone with money can be found who can do better, he

will sell up. But still the prosecution



Seats at all prices . . . Robert Chase surveys his Norwich domain. 'Ask my critics what they would do in my place,' he says, 'and they are a lot less forthcoming' PHOTOGRAPH SIMON LUNT

porters' Association. "His at titude to Mike Walker and Martin O'Neill was symptomatic of his lack of ambition." Walker walked after not receiving a long-term con-tract. O'Neill is believed to have been upset at the lack of money for players.

"They have a budget to op-erate with," said Chase. "We have no means to support overspending. Mike Walker was happy with the contract when he signed it but after 18

ways busine ways businesses get them-selves in a muddle is by giving people wage increases

None of this comforts supporters who have followed their side from Uefa Cup to mid-table Endsleigh League in two years - in fact from fifth in the Premiership last January to 10th in the First Division now.

"In football the hardest job is getting a good team," said Blower, "and a couple of years ago we had one. Chase will not rest. "Norwich City is months he wanted to change destroyed it and there are a a hip that has run aground," it. I didn't. He was an excepsaid Roy Blower of the Nortional manager but one of the never forgive him for that."

Arthur South became chairman and John Bond became never forgive him for that."

Chase took over as Norwich | into the top division but the | vice-chairman Jimmy Jones | hairman in 1986 at an emer- | consequences of that were | have always had a majority of | chairman in 1986 at an emer gency meeting called when the entire board resigned. It was a mess. He had been in-volved at the club since 1983 when, for an investment of £26,000, he purchased around

20,000 shares in the club. They are now worth £20 to £30 each, according to Chase - up to £120 say others - and he now owns 40,000 of them. "If you take a view over 50 Blower, "and a couple of years," said Chase, "Norwich years ago we had one. Chase destroyed it and there are a Arthur South became chair-

manager. They took the club

that the club overstretched itelf financially.

"That's when I came in. In the 10 years since then we've had a festival of football in Norfolk, we've finished third and fourth in the space of a decade and we've got to two FA Cup semi-finals. And we played our first competitive European football. We've had one bad year in 10, which is a pretty good ratio."

"What he means is that his luck has finally run out," said Blower. Until now Chase and his

tant votes, however loud the chants. Now even Jones, a long-standing ally, is having

doubts.
"He's done a superb job since he took over," Jones, "but I think that he's taken it as far as he can and been mooted but have never

Chase, "but, when you ask them who they would put in my place and what they would do, they are a lot less forthcoming. "Anyway, why does anyone

think that Norwich has the God-given right to be in the population of only 120,000 and there's not even a dual car-

it's probably time for him to let somebody else have a go."

But who? Consortia have Coca-Cola Cup and we are back in Europe again. That's materialised.

"You have a very large number of people who are very vocal against me," said skin has to be.

Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finais

Troubled Arsenal need Wright stuff and more

A RSENAL'S old guard pend on the Premiership trio could hardly be overwill be protecting with to Middlesbrough and their Highbury full a difficult FA Cup replay tures as they enter the most with reviving Sheffield when Bould, Adams, Platt, we play Arsenal. We really be overweapened trio could hardly be overweapened trio could hardly be overweapened to the most of the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the most of the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the most of the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the most of the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the most of the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the protecting trio could hardly be overweapened to the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the protecting with trio could hardly be overweapened to the protecting trio could hardly be overweapened to the protecting trio could hardly be overweapened to the protection of the prote significant eight days of their season with Newcastle's visit in their Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final tonight, writes Russell Thomas.

With a £12 million overhaul increasingly threat-ened by Bruce Rioch, last chances are running out for a team who ahve won only one of the last eight games. Arsenal's players must seize their opportunity test.

United next Wednesday. Not for the first time only

Ian Wright's ruthlessness — four goals in his last five games — is propping up Arsenal's sagging season. Tonight he will demand assistance from the returning David Platt and Dennis Bergkamp, though the Dutchman, like Steve Boold, first faces a fitness

The importance of that

Bergkamp, Wright and Parlour were all out over the last three or four weeks. As a manager there's not a lot you can do about it."

Keegan, taking Newcastle to their first quarter-final in the competition for 20 years, has urged his team to raise the tempo, despite the last-ditch efforts which spared FA Cup elimination at Chelsea on Sunday.

must step up if we are to reach the last four."

Mark McGhee still awaits

his first win as Wolves manager after four atbeat about the all-Midlands meeting at Aston Villa. McGhee said: "We know we'll be very difficult to

the last-ditch efforts which beat, dogged and deter-where Brolin, left out of the spared FA Cup elimination at Chelsea on Sunday.

Keegan, who may have to special." But he must Yeboah and Deane missing.

Southend to protect Birmingham's chances at Norwich, where Sansome is likely to keep goal for the The right-back, for whom visitors at the start of a Everton require a new work

month's loan.

Reading similarly sought goalkeeping cover, taking Nixon from Transere, be-fore the trip to Leeds, where Brolin, left out of the FA Cup on Sunday, bears

VERTON have moved swiftly to capitalise on the abolition of the restriction on foreign players by agreeing to buy Newcastle United's Swiss international

defender Marc Hottiger. permit, has not discussed personal terms but the clubs have agreed a £700,000 fee.
The deal is likely to speed Matt Jackson's departure

from Everton. "I inquired about Marc a couple of months ago but was told he was not for sale," said

Everton's manager Joe Royle.
"I believe he will be very suc-cessful at Goodison and I know Kevin Keegan does not want him to leave.

Hottiger to join Everton

Oldham, Royle's former club, have been ordered by the Football League to pay Stoke City £180,000 for the Ice-landic midfielder Toddy Orlygsson. They wanted the outof-contract player free following the Jean-Marc Bosman ruling. Stoke, however, wanted

£750,000 for Orlygsson, who moved to Oldham three weeks Jez Moxey said: "Toddy is 29 and in the prime of his career. The verdict is incredible."

£1.2 million offer from Shef-field United for Don Hutchison. The former Liverpool midfielder, who joined the London side for £1.5 million in 1994, will make a decision on the proposed move today. Liverpool are to offer new presumably short-term, contracts to the veterans lan Rush and Mark Wright but at the other end of the scale Chris Lawler, the former Anfield and England defender. bas been sacked as manager

The Austrian striker Ralph Hasenhuttl has joined Bolton Wanderers on trial from Casino Salzburg.

by Cemaes Bay.

Teamtak

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Aston Villa Birm. City

Derby County

Hudd Town

06 Ipswich Town 21 Liverpool 36 Man. City Man. United Brentford 08 Millwall Coventry City

03 Sheffield Wed. Leeds United 02 Sunderland 01 Tottenham Hot. West Ham 16 Wolves 18 Ceitic 28 Norwich City

05 Nottm. Forest

Rugby League

Castleford end sorry season on a Gay note

Paul Fitzpatrick

HIS has been a dispiriting season for Castle-ford but the signing of Richard Gay from Hull should help assuage some of the disenchantment of their

Subject to a medical, the 26three-year contract today. they beat Wig The fee is reported to be Regal Trophy. £100,000 and that should enable Hull to pursue their interest in Dewsbury's Australian scrum-half Glen Tomlinson. Gay has not played since

Castleford too late to play for lier this season but the goal-them in the Challenge Cup, kicker has not recovered from The race for the Centenary Mann moves from stand-off which starts at the end of the

But John Joyner, the Castleford coach, has signed the talented, attack-conscious player very much with the Super League in mind. He is trying to rebuild a team that looked ready to compete with year-old full-back will sign a the best two years ago when they beat Wigan to win the

Since then a number of talented players — Ellis, Ford, Hay, Morrison, Blackmore and Kemp among them — have departed and have not been fully replaced. Castleford signed Frano Botica ear-

a broken leg.

Gay played twice for England last year, against France and Wales, but failed to secure a place in Phil Larder's final World Cup squad. He was put on stand-by, however, as the doubts about Gary Connolly's fitness mounted.

Bradford were also interested in Gay. Their coach Brian Smith was in charge at Hull when Gay arrived at The Boulevard from local rugby league and always held him in high regard. When Smith returned to Australia to comes in at full-back in place

Championship could end tonight if Leeds fail to beat Oldham at Headingley. The Yorkshire club should win and keep alive their improbable hopes of denying Wigan the title but they will meet an

form of the season. Neil Harmon, Francis Cummins and Mick Forshaw are injured and Leeds make a number of changes from Saturday's losing Regal Trophy semi-final side.

Oldham side in their best

Alan Tait plays for the first time in seven games. He

back to a pack which also includes Nick Fozzard, Harvey Howard and Mick Shaw.

Dean Busby, the loose for-ward signed from Hull last summer, will be fit for St Helens' Regal Trophy final with Wigan at Huddersfield on Saturday after missing last Sunday's league match against Warrington because of a groin strain.

St Helens still have doubts over a number of players. however, including the centre Paul Newlove, the winger Anthony Sullivan and the second-row forward Chris



Gay . . . £100,000 fee

Bath vote on total professionalism

ATH have called an extraordinary general meeting for next month at which an expected 800 members will vote on a radical re-structuring plan that involves the appointment of professional staff to run the club.

A firm of corporate finan-ciers, Ernst and Young, will submit a business report to Bath by the end of this month that is expected to recom-mend a new full-time post covering administration and marketing. The job will carry a salary of around £40,000 a

Bath have also announced a £500,000 sports scholarship scheme in conjunction with Bath University which will provide the places for 30 young players over the next four years. The scheme will be financed by the club with

the help of sponsorship from a leading freight company. In addition to the administrative post Bath are likely to appoint clerical and catering staff who will join the club steward on the payroll along with the director of rugby John Hall. A full-time man-ager will be required to run the shop the club have acquired on a long lease at Pulteney Bridge to sell merchan-dise and match tickets. It will ment committee to a handful includes a new East Stand.

ance of youth by choosing five new cape with an average age of 31 for next Tuesday's

international against Italy in Cardiff.

He was partly forced into the move by injuries to the Pontypridd outside-half Neil

Jenkins and the Lianelli cen-

tre Nigel Davies but he

resisted the temptation to opt for David Evans or Adrian Davies, say, who offered more in terms of experience but less in terms of the

The other new caps are the

Cardiff prop Andrew Lewis and the Llanelli breakaway

Gwyn Jones, while the prop John Davies, the lock Gareth Liewellyn and the flanker

Like the England coach Jack Rowell, Bowring is pre-pared to sacrifice results for

Neither the Bath secretary
John Quin nor the chairman
Richard Mawditt is likely to
be a candidate for the new administrative post which could go to someone who has been headhunted in the business world. Major Chila world. Major Quin recently took up fresh army duties at Warminster while Mawditt's independent style of chairmanship has not endeared him to several members of the Bath committee. In any case Bath nowadays tend to be represented on bodies out-

the management committee Doug Ryder and Colin Gale. It remains to be seen whether Bath's senior honorary officers will become surplus to requirements once the club have appointed a direc-tor of administration; this will probably take place by mid-summer. Yesterday Quin insisted that Bath would "remain in the hands of its members". Yet there are un-mistakeable signs that the senior players are the most

Bowring puts his faith

capped quintet is the Neath centre Leigh Davies, who is a month away from his 20th birthday and who has played a mere 25 games for his club, though that was nearly

double the number of one of his predecessors at The Gnoli. Scott Gibbs, who was 19 when

midfield of the outside-half of an archetypal crash-ball centre but, in his case, the appearance is deceptive.

"Crash-ball is not my made 100 league appearances between them.

"Thomas, the wifine, Gwyn Jness and Andrew Lewis, came through the ranks haven between them.

"Crash-ball is not my sight." he said. "I always look for the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and fast rule of the outside break and aim the hard and t

which persuaded Bowring to invest in the future. "I am

in the young ones

David Plummer on the experimental

Wales team that faces Italy next week

EVIN BOWRING, the new Wales coach, has opted for the exuber. The youngest of the un-

the manner of performance in the short term as he sets about laying the foundations for the 1999 World Cup, which Wales will host.

Posseine has chosen a new archetypal crash-ball

Llewellyn and the flanker have been in excellent form the side to make eight changes from the team which

be the first retail outlet set up by an English rugby club at premises away from its own and Hall, who have worked closely together, will shortly become the accepted way of running Bath and indeed every other ambitious league club. At the same time there

gets on and off the field.

The widening gulf between
players and committeemen at
Bath could produce unforeseen results at the EGM, which may not be quite as willing to hand over power to professional staff as meekly as many players imagine. For instance, some members may reject a simple "yes" or "no" on a complete package of reforms en bloc in favour of an itemised vote that would side the club by members of involve compromise and piecemeal change over a lengthy period. There could also be reluctance to paying hitherto honorary officers a

salary next season. Meanwhile Harlequins have agreed a major longterm sponsorship deal with a multi-national company which will introduce players to potential employment opinfluential arbiters of policy portunities in the London at the Recreation Ground. at the Recreation Ground.

Next month's EGM will almost certainly sound the death knell of Bath's undeath knell of Bath's unde wieldy 27-man committee as celerate Harlequins' re-

that is an attitude I want to

"We have chosen Gwyn Jones on the open-side be-cause he has genuine pace while Andrew Lewis in the

front row is not only a strong

scrummager but is dynamic around the field as he showed

in Sunday's European Cup

The hooker Jonathan Hum-phreys continues as captain in a side based on the Cardiff

pack and the Llanelli back division.

The only other Welsh club

represented in the starting line-up is Neath, the former

which Leigh Davies shares. "I feel I am ready. After all,

badly, did he?"

WALESS J Thomas; I Evans (both Lanell), L Ducke (Neuth), E Wintle, W Proctor (both Lianell); A Thomas (Gristol), A Siscer, A Lewis (both Gardin, J Hamphreys (Cardif, capil, J Duvies, G Lieuweijs) both Reath, D Jones, E Lewis (both Cardif), G Jones (Lianell), H Taylor (Cardif), E Spisonements: S Hill (Cardif), D Evans (Treority), R Howing (Eridgend), S Williams (Neuth), L Sissipe (Cardif), G Joseks (Seath), L Sissipe (Cardif), G Joseks (Seath), L Sissipe

now plays for Bristol.
Thomas, like Wintle, Gw



Defence mechanism . . . Syed goes through his paces in training yesterday

Table Tennis

Syed makes his Olympic challenge

Richard Jago sets | by players who read backspin and float. the stage for today's event in Manchester

ATTREW SYED, the England No. 1, will be among the favourites to go forward to the Olympic Games when he lines up in the quali-fying competition beginning at Manchester's Nynex Arena

The 25-year-old from Chesterfield, who joins 70 or so players from more than 30 countries for the event, is in the best form of his career. More significantly Syed be-lieves he is good enough to be selected for Atlanta.

An outline of his recent achievements illustrates why. Syed surprised many by at-tempting to become the Eng-land No. I when he was in the middle of a politics and eco-nomics degree at Oxford's Balliol College, A year ago he achieved his aim.

He was also determined to get a first-class honours degree even though he was playing for England during much of his final year. He managed that six months ago. He then set out to regain his place at the top of the England rankings by Christmas. He did it with a few days to

"It's such a relief to concentrate 100 per cent on table ten-nis," Syed said. "I don't have to worry about meeting dead-lines for essays at Oxford and it's freed my mind. I'm delighted with my form. I've been able to practise harder and train more and improve my technique."

Syed, a defensive player, has been practising with Chen Xinhua, the former England No. 1 who is helping him and Andrea Holt prepare for the qualifying competition. Chen and Syed have been working on the service, on footwork when top-spinning down the line and on floating the ball "with safety".

Defensive players are unusual in the modern game of Germany and the former and, although they can confuse some opponents, are particularly susceptible to defeat Netherlands.

Chen, a former World Cup winner, and the English national champion Carl Prean have already been banded Great Britain's two automatic places for the Olympics, although Prean is still refusing to play for England and the management committee of the English Table Tennis Association recommended that players not playing for their countries should not be nomi-

nated. Moreover, the majority of players shared the view but the ETTA national council disagreed and unexpectedly overruled it. A philosophical Syed, per-haps drawing on some of his

political teaching, has ac-cepted it. "Maybe I am un-lucky on current form but Carl and Kinhua are higher in the world rankings," he said. "And we need to have Carl involved in the set-up again."
The draw, to be made shortly before play starts, will

be of special importance to Syed as it will for his fellow defensive players Holt and Lisa Lomas who, according to the Olympic selector Don Parker, both have 50-50 chances of qualifying.
England's third woman,

Alison Gordon, has the spirit and ability to raise her game and defeat any of the favourites but she may find it hard to rack up enough wins to

The competition will be in three parts — early stages to decide four groups from which the top two in each qualify. There will also be a third-stage play-off between the third- and fourth-placed players in each group. In all 10 men and 10 women will qualify by Sunday. Sweden's former world

champion Jorgen Persson and the English Open cham-pion Damien Eloi of France will be among the front runners in the men's.

The women's competition boasts the former European

Mistral to break the ice

Bob Fisher

to keep the ball alive. I have been fortunate to be part of an electric Neath backline this season and I know I have been selected for the way I baye played and to know I have played for the page played and to know I have played for the page played and to know I have played for the page played and to know I have played for the page played and to know I have played for the page played and to know I have played for the page played and the page played and the page played to the page pla RUSSIAN ice-breaker is expected to accompany the yachts taking part in the Grand Mistral, a RUSSIAN ice-breaker have played, not to keep Bowring's philosophy is crashing back inside."

It is that kind of confidence you are old enough, one seven-leg race around the world which will start from looking for us to develop a scott Gibbs didn't do too pattern of play which relies on getting the ball wide and supporting." he said.

"The midfield may lack experience but the three players have been to receive form.

In the function of play which relies on getting the ball wide and supporting." he said.

"The midfield may lack experience but the three players have been to receive form.

Stringly (Cardif, capit, J Davies, E. Liewelly) (Cardif Marseilles on September 21. The presence of an ice-breaker, which would also provide a television studio and communications base, depends on \$5 million (£3.3 million) in funding being completed by March 15, according to the race's creator Pietre Fehlmann.

The Swiss ocean racer, these ocean marathons, the who has completed five "teleship" could unlock Whitbread round-the-world several bank vaults. The orraces, announced his latest plans yesterday in London and confirmed that there were already three syndi-cates fully paid to charter the one-design 80-footers that will be used in this race. Others were in the late stages of negotiation with their sponsors and Fehlmann estimated that there would be between nine and 12 boats taking

ganisers, however, face a tight schedule to confirm funding for this project within two months. The Fastnet Race winner Ludde Ingvall of Finland,

currently spearheading the Cape Town-Rio race with his 71ft Nicorette. will take delivery of the first boat to be completed in early April. Ingvall has had the nine and 12 boats taking opportunity to sail the prepart.

As television is the key to obtaining sponsorship for with her performance.

Win keeps World Series door open for Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA revived their crowd of 60,000 at the Mel-bourne Cricket Ground.

World Series final with a The Test opener Roshan three-wicket victory over Australia yesterday after omitting their off-spinner Muttlah Muralitharan, whose bowling action has fallen foul of Australian umpires. Romesh Kaluwitharana, Sri

Lanka's wicketkeeper, justified his promotion to opener with a scintillating 77 from 79 balls to ease the tourists home with 15 balls to spare. In reply to Australia's 213

Mahanama, who dropped

down the order after a poor run of scores, made a timely return to form to guide his side to the verge of victory with a patient 51. Australia posted a respectable target after Ricky Pont-ing and Michael Bevan added 159 runs for a record limited-

ship. Ponting scored 123 from 142 balls, his first century for for five from 50 overs Sri Australia, before being run Lanka scored 214 for seven in out on the final ball. Bevan 47.3 overs to the dismay of a remained unbeaten on 65.

Benn has Bruno cornered

HE door to Atlanta Olym-

pic selection has been

opened again for Great Brit-

ain's leading women players

Mould breaks into contention for Atlanta

But anyone who saw Mould

joined by 11 others, including two players who have yet to be capped. Lucy Culliford has been in the squad before but strengthen her defence.

ter captain.

been in the squad before but strengthen her defence.

Lynda Watkin selection has come out of the The experienced Kath eration again.

with the announcement of an Jane Sixsmith in the expanded squad following the Women's National Indoor

blue for Jo Mould, the Leices- | Johnson is named but she has

playing against the German the huge commitment, particularly of time. It is good to see European Club Championship or last Sunday against in the running. She would Jane Sixsmith in the surely benefit the team if she

Jack Massarik

Nigel Benn and Frank Bruno operate a matual admiration society which involves voctferous ringside support for each other's fights. Its two charter members are in for a busy month in March.

Benn defends his WBC super-middleweight title against Thulane "Sugar Boy" Malinga of South Africa in Newcastle on March 2. Yesterday he promised that, win or lose, he would fly to Las Vegas a fortnight later to be in Frank Bruno's corner for the WBC heavyweight rematch

with Mike Tyson — this time with Benn fought the flight on March 16.

"I believe in the big man and McClellan; Bruno lent conspicuous ringside support as Benn, knocked through the ropes in the opening round. recovered to win in the 10th. Henry Wharton, the York-shireman outpointed by both Benn and Chris Eubank, hopes to return to the world super-middleweight title fight will also see Tim Littles, recently signed by Frank Warren, challenge the WBA champion Franke Liles.

Benn and Bruno will both finish their training in Tener-

a young son and has still to decide whether she can make

Badminton The English National Cham-

Sport in brief

pionships have been rearranged to help improve home players' Olympic pros-pects. The Norwich tourna-ment clashed with the Polish Championships on March 28-31 but the latter have been upgraded to a World Grand Prix tournament and the final points qualifier for Olympic selection. English players hoping to squeeze into the team for Atlanta would have had to miss the domestic event but it will now be in Norwich on April 2-4.

Golf

CBS Sports have dropped the British-born commentator Ben Wright, who is alleged to have made comments about lesbians playing on the LPGA tour. The 63-year-old Wright joined CBS in 1972.

Snooker

Alex Higgins donned a berei for the last two frames but was beaten 5-4 by Chris Scan-lon in the seventh qualifying round of the European Open in Blackpool, writes Clive Everton. Cliff Thorburn flew overnight to Heathrow from Sun City, where he played in the world trick-shots championship, arrived in Blackpool via the Manchester shuttle and a subsequent taxi and second in the Olympic qualifying tournament in South Africa in November.

The 16 players who gained qualification have been joined by 11 others, including two players who have vet to lost 5-0 to Ian Brumby.

Ice Hockey

Great Britain yesterday named their squad for next Wednesday's Olympic quali-

Wednesday's Olympic quali-fying game against Slovenia in Ljubljana. Gozimboless Lyle. Fosher. Defenom Karlenbach, Strechan, S Cooper Hope. Sishop. Lindsay, Disan. Forwards: Margan, Adey, Tail, Scott, Plooming. Crantion, McEwen, I Gooper, Maria, Consty, Garden, China. Longalat.

Results

Quarter-finals

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD

Hereford (1) 1 Cross 21 Brighton (1) 2 Scott 26 (og) McDougald 79

Stevens 19, 48, 65 Evans 81 (pen) 2,559 Northern section Quarter-finals

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE Third Division

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Premier Division

Raitin (0) 1 Campron 65 9,300 SCOTTISH LEAGUE

First Division Dundet (0) 0 9,150

voused Wallon & Horsham 1, Kingstonian 3, 2002AT MILLS LEAGUED Prevaler Divisions Old Down Alt 1, Paulion Rvrs 4, Pestponeck Bristol MF v Chipperhum 7n. POINTINS LEAGUE. First Devisions Bolton 1, Noths Forest 1; Everion 0, Man Uld 1. Second Divisions Bernsley 1, Coventry 2: Garlesby 1, Sanderland 1, Avon HRSUMANCE COMMINATIONS First Divisions Portsmoth V Norwich; Wallord v Ipoweth. 1813M LEAGUE: Occa-Cola Fleodift Cape First-rused, first legs Ballycters 2, Portsdown 1; Coleraine 2, Bangor C. Distillory 0, Linifeld 4, Postponeck Ballymana v Crusaders; Lerne v Ards; Newry v Gloptoran, First-rused, wedered begr Glenavon 3. Carrick 0 (2005.6-1).

Rugby Union

Witt ALDWEIK CORPETITION: Pool & Postposech Abercyno v Blaine. Pool & Lindovery 18, Durwant 60. Tenby Uni 12, Narberth 90. Peak C S Wales Police 30. Cardill inst 15. Postposech Caerphilly v Llanharan. Pool 27, Bonymaen 18. Rugby League

STONES CENTERARY
Second Division
Charley (22) 40, Highfield (8) 14. Chierley: Tries: Marsh 2, Bramwell. Costello,
Danawa, Fell, Hokien. Goales: Smith 6.
Highfield: Tries: I Chierail, Laver. Goales
Fanning 3 (350) Tennis

Tennis

No MPLLOUTH OPEN (Aucidand): First reaset T Employer (Swe) by H Raneberg (US) 6-3, 1-6, 6-0; B Minteneits, (Japan) b J Bjorkman (Swe) 1-5, 6-1; B Staven (NZ) by M Confuska (SA) 6-2, 6-4; J Monat (CZ) bt A Voince (Rom) 6-0, 7-6, J Franz (Arg) bt A Voince (Rom) 6-0, 7-6, J Franz (Arg) bt A Voince (Rom) 6-0, 7-6, J Franz (Arg) bt A Voince (Rom) 6-0, 7-6, J Franz (Arg) bt A Voince (Rom) 6-2, 6-4; M Tennis (US) bt C Mova (Sp) 6-2, 6-4; J Traps (US) bt C Mova (Sp) 6-2, 6-4; J Traps (Port) bt N Marques (Por) 6-4, 6-3.

TABSARHAN INTERNATIONAL (Nobert: First round: I. Ghirardi-Rodol (Pr) bt B Paulies (Aut) 6-1, 2-6, 6-2; P Basadd (Indo) it A Serra-Zened (Indo) 6-2, 6-3. M Migrapi (Japan) bt Y Kamio (Japan) 6-7, 7-5, 6-0; C Singer (Gor) bt N Nagalauka (Japan) 6-1, 4-6, 6-2; S Hack (Ger) bt A Serra-Inova (Isr) 1-5, 6-2, 6-3; Al Sanghama (Japan) by A Fuzzi (Fr) 3-6, 8-3, 6-3; V Rasno-Pascumd (Sp) bt B Reinstadjer (Aut) 7-6, 6-1; S Fazina (It) bt L Courbis (Se) 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; F Labot (Arg) bt L Wind (US) 7-6, 6-1; S Fazina (It) bt L Courbis (Se) 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; F Labot (Arg) bt L Wind (US) 7-6, 6-1; S Fazina (It) bt L Courbis (Se) 5-7, 6-3, 6-1; S Fazina (It) bt C De

Basketball MBAs Cleveland 109, Washington 91; Utah 94, Marmi 92.

Cricket

WORLD SERIES LIMITED OVERS MATCH Melbourner Australia for 213-6 (30 overs, R Ponting 123, M Bevan 65no). Sri Lanka 214-7 (47.3 overs; R Kaluwithar-ana 77, R Mehanama 51). Sri Lanka won by three wickers

ice Hockey 80412 Winnipeg 6. Detroit 4, Tampa Bay 3, Montreal 3 (otj. Pittsburgh 8, Vancouver 5; Los Angelse 4, Dallas 4 tott; Florida 5, San Jose 2.

Real Tennis

SNB RESOURCES BRITISH PROFES-SIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Queen's). Send-finaish C Brayriff Good-leg bi P Tabley/R Gunn 6-0, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; N Wood/A Phillips b). L Dunchar/J Howel 5-5, 6-4, 5-5, 6-6. Flash: Bray/Gooding bi Wood/Phillips 6-2, 0-6, 5-2, 5-1.

Snooker

SNOOKEY

EUROPEAN OPEN (Blackpool): Seventh (mailtying round: Y Nerchaert (Ind) bt M (king (Eng) 5-1; B Beanett (Wales) bt T Shaw (Eng) 5-1; D Honry (Scot) bt P Daves (Wales) bt A (Maiss) 5-2; B Sanddon (Scot) bt J Woodnan (Eng) 5-2; I Bramby (Eng) bt C Thorriburn (Can) 5-0; T Jones (Eng) bt O (King (Eng) 5-0; T Murphy (MI b) M Wilson (Eng) 5-4; G Greene (Eng) bt A Higgins (Eng) 5-4; C Seandon (Eng) bt M Hallett (Eng) 5-4; C Seandon (Eng) bt J Burnett (Scot) 5-3; B Jadge (ire) bt J Burnett (Scot) 5-4; C Seandon (Eng) bt K Broughton (Eng) 5-4; C Seandon (Eng) bt K Broughton (Eng) 5-4; C Seandon (Eng) bt A Higgins (MI) 5-4.

COCA-COLA CUP: Quarter-finals Arsenal v Newcastle (8.0), Asion Villa v Wolverhampion (7.45); Leeds v Radin (7.45), Norwich v Berningsom (7.45), EMDSLEIGH LEAGUR: Second Division

SIDSLEIGH LEAGUE Secured Divisions Stockport v Bradford; Swindon v Swansea (7 45).

ISBLE'S SCOTTESH LEAGUER Premier Divisions Hearts v Motionwell SCOTTESH LEAGUER Second Divisions Oueen of South v Stenhousemulr: Stranfaer v Berwick, Third Divisions Livingston v Queen's Part: Rose County v Arbooth, Spalbing Challender Halley (745).

UNISOND LEAGUER President's Cups First resent Africon v Boston Utd.

ICIS LEAGUE. Third Divisions Harlow To y Wingsia & Firchley. First resends Afrecon v Boston Utc.

KCS LEAGUR: Third Divisions Harlow To
v Wingate & Finchley.

BEASSER HOSESS LEAGUES Or Martens
Cups Third reuseds Buckingham To v Nunsaton Bor; Nessport AFC v Watertooville
GREAT BIBLS. LEAGUES Premier DivIsland From To v Taumton To.

PONTINES LEAGUES Presp Devisions NotsCounty v Shell Wed (7 0); Oldham v West
Brom (7.0); Blackborn v Birmingham C
(7.0). Second Divisions Blackpool v York
(7.0). Huddersfield v Mansfield (7.0); Middiesbrough v Burnley (7.0), Port Vale v
Praston (7.0); Rocherham v Hull (7.0).
Third Divisions Bury v Chester (7.0); Chesterfield v Strevebury (7.0); Darlingknow v Scurthoope (6.30); Scarborough v
Doncaster (7.0); Wiggan v Carrisle (7.0); Avon insurnance Comesin Artio Martine
First Divisions Bristol C v Wurbbledon:
Crystal Palace v Chesten (7.0), Second
Divisions Bath v Birmingham; Cardili v

Bournemouth (2.0); Torquey v Chellenham
(7.0); Baller of WALES: Entry Vale v Com-

(7 0). LEAGUE OF WALES: ENDW Vale v Cwm-

bran: Porthmadog v Holywell (7.45). SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE Brentford v Cambridge Utd (2.0); Colchester Utd v Leyton Orlent (2.0). Rugby Union

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Royal Navy v Combined London OB (7.0, Bur-naby Rd, Portsmouth); RAF v Chil Service (2.15, RAF hallon). TEXMENTS BITER DISTRICT CHAMPI-ONSHIPS Soutian Eilles v S of Scotland (5.0, Richmout). (5.0, Richmond). CLUB MATCH: Newcastle Goslorth

Rugby League

STOMES CENTENARY CHAMPROM-SMIP: Workington v Warrington, Leeds v Oldham. First Divisions Whitehaven v Widness Watefield v Baney. Second Div-lations: Carrisle v Barrow (Carliste RU); vork v Switton: Doncaster v Hunslot (Featnerstone): Pramicy v Hull KR.

ice Hockey

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier Division Durham v Sheltjeld (6.30); Newcastle v Humberside (8.0). Division One: Brack-nell v Peterborough (8.0), Guildford v Med-vaty (8.0).

स्टुटिंग इ.स.च्य

... 17

Bath's shake-up at the top, page 15

SportsGuardian

THORPE FAILS TO STAVE OFF DEFEAT IN THE FIRST ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL Chiefs DUNICO

Pollock turns out the lights as they chill out

Mike Selvey in Cape Town HALF-CENTURY from Graham enough to give England victory under the Newlands lights last night. He was ninth out, superbly caught by Craig Matthews at deep midwicket, for 62 off 95 balls, as England were dismissed for 205 to lose by six runs a match domi-

nated by Shaun Pollock. It was one of England's bet-ter balls-ups. Asked to make 212 from 50 overs to win, Mike Atherton (35), Alec Stewart (23) and Graeme Hick (21) all made good starts before cross-ing the path of Allan Donald in full flight for the second

But the left-handed pair of Thorpe and Neil Fairbrother put the match within reach ship of 61, taking the score to 155 for three before Fairbrother was caught at mid-on for 28 with 57 required. It was the beginning of the end, with the last seven wickets falling

Earlier Dominic Cork, Peter Martin and Craig White had each taken two wickets as South Africa recovered only marginally from a careless first half to their innings, and that thanks largely to Pollock's responsible, unbeaten innings of 66 from 66 deliveries - a knock that contained six boundaries. With his four wickets, including the last one of Darren Gough with the penultimate delivery of the match, it was more than sufficient to give Pollock the Man of the Match award.

England's tribulations began when Donald tore in from the Wynberg end after 12 overs had been bowled, his rhythm and timing elevating him to a class above any other bowler in the game, Pollock's wickets notwithstanding.

He might have removed Atherton as the England cap-tain edged both his second first was deemed not to have



Out of his ground . . . the England bowler Peter Martin runs out South Africa's Hansie Cronje for 24 at Newlands yesterday

slip and the second wrong- match in Sydney — South Af- diles might testify, are handy footed Richardson behind the rice have beaten England but, things to have, but those stumps. Donald was not to be denied, however, and in or indeed make any signifi-successive overs Stewart was cant progress in next month's leg-before and Atherton lost his orange off stump.
Four overs later Hick was also leg-before, although from the angle at which Donald bowls it is hard to understand

the umpire's thoughts on the geometry of the law. Nonethe-less it was quality bowling. It was the first time in five carried to McMillan at first | torious 22-from-one-ball | order. Lengthy tails, as croco-

if they are to do so in future, World Cup, they will need to produce a better display of

batting than here. top order, readjusted from the Test series to meet the tactical demands of oneday cricket, was slapdash against England bowling that for the most part was merely attempts — including the no- much strain on the lower

higher up the order have to take their share of the

As it was, Atherton, having been asked to field first, could not believe his good fortune as six wickets fell for 107 in-side the first 31 overs. If South Africa needed mitigation (and they ought not to look much further than their own shortcomings) it could come only from the fact that the white ball, as ever, tended to swing more readily than its

that Cork and Martin in particular were able to exploit Four of the first five wick-ets went to catches behind the

stumps as batsmen waited at deliveries of generous width, while Kirsten, a left-hander, fell foul of Cork's inswing and was leg-before. A short game seemed a possibility.

The innings had been stag-nating with no boundary between the 10th and 26th overs and the tempo began to change only with a seventh-wicket stand of 45 in 11 overs shared by Kallis (38) and Pol-lock. When Kallis was well

red counterpart — something | England might have considered the job almost done. Intead Pollock, in his first limited-overs international, with Matthews offering stout support, played like a veteran, mixing strong hitting with innovation straight from the

Bob Woolmer coaching book. Only once, when he had made 29, did he look in trouble, but his catch to deep midwicket came straight out of the sun setting over Table Mountain and Thorpe mis-judged the chance. By the time Matthews holked the last ball of the innings to midwicket the pair had added 59

Scoreboard

in the car park



/incent Hanna

IIS is the Mount Moriah funeral parlour and cemetery." said the sepulchral voice, "and business is brisk." As brother Frank's jokes go, it was better than average. In Kansas, where the red-necks glow like flows like heer everyone was either freezing or suicidal. The Chiefs, with the best record in the NFL this season, had just lost 10-7 in the play-offs to the

unfancied Indianapolis Colts.
"I guess there will now be a sharp rise in spousal abuse," said Ernie Scrivener, who owns a supermarket, "and I" won't be washing my trailer until spring." Since he had painted it with fluorescent red and-white stripes who can blame him.

After the game someone stuck a microphone in the face of Jim Harbaugh, the Colts' quarterback: "I owe this to my personal Lord and Saviour, esus Christ." he said. Then he knelt with 10 others and held an impromptu prayer meeting Taking no chances, two of the osing side joined in.

It was some upset. It was Sunderland 4, Man United 0 in the replay. Frank is a fan of the Chiefs but he really goes to Arrowhead Stadium for the tailgate parties in the car park. You should see them, all of Kansas State and most of Missouri painted red and white and having a barbecue. And using my brother's mobile

There were 40,000 taileaters on Sunday, eating and drinking — and watching television — in the car park. Many can-not get tickets for the game but they never miss the tailgat

T WAS 34 degrees Fahren heit below freezing. "It's so cold," explained Stacey Raymore, who works for the City Council and roasted half a sheep for her friends, "that flashers are reduced to walking around and describing themselves.

On the pitch the players slipped and slid with a ball that seemed to be a solid lump of ice. Lin Elliot, the Chiefs' usu-ally reliable kicker, attempted three routine field goals and missed them all. "I struggled a little bit today," he said

"He'll struggle all right," said Jeffrey Belton, a Kansas attorney, "especially when we weight the sack down." "But what are you doing in the Mount Moriah funeral par-

lour?" I asked.
"We all park here and then
take one trailer to the stadium," said Jeffrey. "Besides,
Chiefs' fans can get discounts
— and that could be useful."

American Football dates from the Seventies when I reported Watergate and followed the Miami Dolphins. I watched them win Super Bow. VII, cheering for Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick - and, of ann Jim Airck — aint, or course, coach Don Shula, the Jock Stein of American Foot-ball, who quit his job this week: after 25 years.

The game embodies much of the American character. It is about gaining and defending territory, if necessary by violence. There are strange, even ridiculous, aspects like the herds of specialist players rushing on and off like migrat-ing wildebeest or the tricks and stunts they use to fit TV commercials into games.

But watch it and you will see superb athletes, who in all sports are the best at what they do. Do not miss Sunday's Super Bowl semi-final — if only to see Deion "Prime Time" Sanders run. He is greased lightning. Deion recently signed for the Dallas Cowboys for \$12,999,999.99 (the extra cent would have been unlucky) and has recorded 4.1sec

for 40 metres. And there is nothing more aesthetically pleasing in any team sport than Bret Favre's long forward passes for the

Green Bay Packers.
I once watched Dan Marino, the Dolphins' great quarterback, practise in Florida. He stood on the halfway line and threw the ball (slightly smaller than a rugby ball) like a rocket towards the goal. He suc-ceeded four times out of five. I should add, by the way, that he was aiming at the upright. Try

I called Ernie yesterday and tried to cheer him up. I told him about Hereford and Chel ea and how that was Cup foot-

ball and life must go on. He was inconsolable. "On top of everything the deer season is over and so is the bow season." I understood this to be a reference to those periods in Kansas when you may lawfully slaughter furry creatures with

various weapons. "Life's a bitch. My clothes are ruined, my truck needs a respray, the Chiefs are out of the play-offs and I can't kill Well, not on four legs

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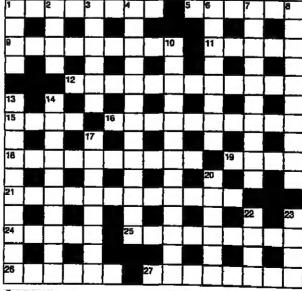
and realible in the life of Man. A written quantum of our realm term, is a adult or request. All home are subject to status. You must be used 21 years or over and in record of regular means. The manning bear is 1800. from now to what Kink, Advison (nd 14). Bond pk. in agreement had not under the fembling for 1987 egoneted Office. North Street, Workfield, Wordson Berkelen, \$1 a. (14). Regenered in England, Soc 1447–505.

There may be few clues for his ultimate act of despair. His wife might have noticed he was irritable. Perhaps she knew nothing of the hefty bank loan or the increasing difficulties in complying with new legislation. She might have been his rock for years, and he might love her very much, **but farmers** find it all hard to take.

ed com

Guardian Crossword No 20,545

Set by Araucaria



1 Spectacular single performance at the Illumi

- 5 Nonconformity with a father
- 9 Rail table altered on both
- sides? (9) 11 One in the valley to pick up
- the left-overs (5). 12 Divisive to wit - what Kai Lung unrolled I call unfinished (12) 15 War machine that holds
- 16 Gland suggesting love of money, perhaps . . . (10)
- 18 ... By means of it, in plain terms, you get wealth (10) 19 Bill takes me to the top (4) 21 Winger should be about -

is tired, possibly (7,5)

24 Wader taking girl into employment? (5)

- 26 Holey question (6) 27 Bohemian prince using little Australian filler (8)

Down

- 1 Change of direction in pieces of Porgy and Bess (4)
- 2 Student in divinity achieves
- 3 Charge at change of direction (6) 4 For benefit during struggle, call for him — but he wasn't
- 6 Formerly called by funny boy a hold-up on horseback (4,4)
- 7 Prophetic ability before knowledge was systematised (10)
- 8 Letters to discover how things are without publicity? (10)



10 Constant with cake, he

13 Cuckoo's need to pace test for the lady (10) 14 Counter odd movement not

treated with the third degree (10) 17 Turned into into stone -take it or leave it (8)

20 Search frantically for a different drink (6)

22 Forty winks for Mrs. Moore's doctor (4) 23 Object of worship doesn't sound energetic (4)

Solution tomorrow

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